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Champion
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Energy firm bosses quizzed by residents

Hospital team's pioneering operation

BERYL'S PERSISTENCE HELPED HER BEAT 'THE SILENT KILLER'

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Now cancer survivor aims to raise awareness and funds for charity which supported her through ordeal

A CANCER survivor from West Lancashire is aiming to raise awareness of the rare form of the disease she suffered from and help the charity which supported her throughout her treatment.

When Beryl Jones first felt what she descibed as a 'pin prick feeling' in her stomach she went to her GP and was told there was nothing to worry about.

However when it started to wake her in the night the then 60-year-old went back to the doctor's. This time the doctor could feel something and agreed to send her for a scan but said she would have to wait up to eight weeks for an appointment.

Beryl, who is originally from Wales but moved to Burscough 42 years ago with husband Bill, decided that was too long to wait and instead arranged a private consultation at Renacres Hospital in Halsall where she was diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma, otherwise known as bile duct cancer.

Although considered rare, worldwide it is the second most common primary liver cancer and incidences are believed to be on the rise.

It is known as 'the silent killer' as it is difficult to diagnose accurately and early, so by the time of diagnosis it is often too advanced for surgery - which is currently the only potential cure.

Thanks to her persistence though Beryl was able to undergo surgery at Aintree Hospital where the tumour was subsequently removed.

Beryl Jones and husband Bill supporting the AMMF cancer charity.

Now she is determined to raise awareness of the disease and funds for the AMMF (the Alan Moreement Memorial Fund) the UK's only cholangiocarcinoma charity which supported her during her treatment.

Recalling her fateful decision to persist in seeking help, Beryl, now 71, said: "The symptoms were very vague. I kept getting a little tiny sensation, just like a pin prick.

"I felt something in my tummy so I went to see a GP who said there was nothing to worry about but sent me for a blood test to be on the safe side and it came back normal.

"Then it started to wake me in the night so a week later I went to see another GP who said he thought he could feel something and would send me for a scan but it would take six to eight weeks.

"I couldn't wait that long so, the next day I went to Renacres Hospital where an ultra sound found a mass on my liver. And after further scans eventually they found a big tumour on my liver.

"Not waiting that six to eight weeks saved my life, absolutely. Every consultant I have seen has told me that."

To date, Beryl, who is a member of three local line dancing groups, has raised £14,000 for AMMF by organising line dancing socials.

Her next fundraiser is a line dancing social to be held at the Lathom and Burscough Royal British Legion in Lord Street, Burscough on Saturday, March 10 starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 on the door and there will be a quiz, bingo and DJ.

Jill and Tony sign the register following their St Valentine's Day wedding

Perfect fairy tale wedding day for love-struck OAPs

IT was the perfect fairy tale ending for love-struck pensioners Jill Cohen and Tony Warren when they tied the knot on St Valentine's Day.

Sixty-eight-year-old Jill from Ormskirk, and 76-year-old Tony were wed at Banks Methodist Church.

And the beaming bride said the day "could not have been better" after the couple overcame seemingly insurmountable odds to find happiness.

As reported in the Champion last week, former Ormskirk School teacher Jill was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS) in 1998 and by 2015 had been in a wheelchair for 10 years.

But with medical help she fought to get her life back and is now in remission for her type of MS.

She was also able to take up a volunteering job at Rufford Old Hall where she met former marine commando Tony from Hesketh Bank and the pair immediately hit it off.

Tony was one of the advance reconnoitring party during the Falklands War and just last year he climbed to Base Camp 2 at Mount

Continued inside

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Public consultation on proposed changes to council's housing policies

RESIDENTS are being invited to have their say on West Lancs Council's draft Housing Allocations and Pet Policies.

The council is looking to make a number of changes to the way it allocates its housing and wants to hear your views.

Council chiefs say the proposed changes to the authority's Housing Allocations Policy are aimed at making the best possible use of its housing to meet people's needs.

They are also seeking to address issues of rent affordability. Prospective tenants may no longer be entitled to welfare benefits, or may not receive enough benefits to cover their full rent obligation and the council wants to support people into tenancies that they can afford.

A public consultation on the draft updated policy is being held by the council running until Thursday, March 22.

This will run in tandem with a consultation on a new draft pet policy for council housing, suggesting a relaxing of rules around pet ownership in certain accommodation.

Councillor Jenny Forshaw

Details of both full draft policies and how to give your views can be found by visiting www.westlancs.gov.uk/your-views and clicking on 'consultations underway'.

Councillor Jenny Forshaw, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for housing and landlord services, said: "The council is really keen to hear what you think about the draft policies so I urge people to take part in the consultation, including tenants and people on the Housing Register. All reasonable comments received will be considered in producing the final policies."

Important amendments being considered in the updated draft Housing Allocations Policy include:

- Changes to the way applicants for housing are put into priority bands.
- Amendments to the criteria used for allocating a home to someone with a local connection to areas in the borough that have local connection criteria.
- Reducing the age limit for people to live in sheltered accommodation from 60 to 55 (or 50 if it is not a communal sheltered scheme).
- New rules governing how an application from an existing council tenant to move to another council property is considered.
- Measures to help ensure all applicants have a successful tenancy that they can afford if they are given a home.

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Farmer vows to fight on after council action on planning breach upheld

£7,981 interest added to £59,000 Proceeds of Crime Order

A FARMER has vowed to fight on after one of the highest courts in the land upheld action taken by West Lancashire Borough Council against him over breaches of planning laws.

In February 2016 Timothy Edwards, of Bannister House Farm, The Marshes Lane, Tarleton, was ordered to pay £59,000 under the Proceeds of Crime Act at Preston Crown Court.

He was also fined £3,500 and ordered to pay prosecution costs £6,000 for failing to comply with planning enforcement notices. Mr Edwards' wife Susan was also fined £500.

The council initiated the action against the couple after officers found they were illegally storing a large number of caravans on two fields at their property.

The council advised them that all of the caravans should be removed, but the couple failed to do this despite enforcement notices served on them being upheld by an independent planning inspector.

The Proceeds of Crime Order of £59,000 reflected the financial benefit gained by Mr Edwards as a result of his continued breach of planning control.

Mr Edwards launched an appeal challenging the fine and confiscation order, claiming both were excessive.

However last month the Court of Appeal

Timothy Edwards

in London upheld the sentence given to Mr Edwards. He must now pay the full amount, plus interest on the Proceeds of Crime Act Order of £7,981.

A further hearing is now due to take place at Liverpool Magistrates Court on Wednesday, February 28.

If Mr Edwards hasn't paid he will be questioned as to how he intends to pay and the court could give directions on how he should do this. A default prison sentence of 10 months was set at the time the order was made which can invoked if the court thinks he is failing to pay.

West Lancs Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "The council welcomes this decision by the Court of Appeal as it shows the authority acted correctly in taking this legal action. This case sends out a strong warning and should deter other land owners and businesses from seeking to financially profit from breaches of planning control."

However, Timothy Edwards told the Champion that he plans to take his appeal to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, who can take it back to the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court.

He said: "The appeal only looked at if the sentencing was correct, they didn't look at the evidence or the decision again, which is not fair. If you've been running a business doing the same thing for 10 years or more, you don't legally need to apply for planning permission for a change of use of the land and I have done it for 12 years!

"We have two static caravans on the land that have planning permission so the land is already being used for the express purpose of storing caravans anyway.

"I am just a farmer running a caravan business from his own land. I will be appealing again and will take it to the Supreme Court if that's what it takes."

Fairy tale Valentine's wedding for love-struck pensioners

From Page 1

Everest - at 6,400m above sea level! - to celebrate his 75th birthday.

Family and friends joined the couple for their big day followed by a wedding lunch and a party later at a sheltered housing scheme in Ormskirk where Jill stayed when she was wheelchair-bound.

Jill said: "It was a very happy, very relaxed day and couldn't have been better.

"We are very much in love, and we just want to live our lives peacefully together."

They plan to honeymoon in April.

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Edge Hill shortlisted for employability strategy award

EDGE Hill University has been shortlisted for 'Best University Employability Strategy' at the TARGETjobs National Graduate Recruitment Awards.

The winners of what is the largest early careers recruitment awards in Europe will be announced at a ceremony at London's Grosvenor House hotel on Wednesday, March 28, after organisers have counted thousands of individual votes from undergraduates, apprentices and school-leavers.

The award celebrates the achievements made by higher education institutions to ensure that their undergraduates are best equipped to achieve their potential when searching and applying for graduate roles and transitioning to employment. This is the second year in a row that the Ormskirk university has been shortlisted in this category.

Jacqui Howe, head of careers at Edge Hill, said: "To be shortlisted again is an important recognition of the work of the careers team, our colleagues across the university and everything that the institution works hard to achieve by ensuring our graduates go on to have successful and enjoyable careers."

The majority of degree programmes at Edge Hill lead to professional qualification, accreditation or endorsement, in addition to an academic award. Placements, work experience and study abroad are widely available in all faculties, and the university's links with employers mean that students have many opportunities to enhance their employability while they study.

The careers team at Edge Hill University

Mark Allanson, pro vice-chancellor for external relations at Edge Hill, said: "Learning employability attributes and skills, taking part in mock assessment centres and getting to practice with employers and through the curriculum is a key part of our student experience.

"Getting a chance to reflect on what is learned at university enables our graduates to present themselves in a compelling way as they start their careers.

"These skills remain with them as they progress in their careers. Our alumni tell us this and we're proud that they come back to help our current students get a head start on their careers."

According to the latest Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey, Edge Hill is one of the top public universities in the country for graduate employment with 95.5 per cent of graduates in work or further study.

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Questions put to Aurora Energy

Q: Why does the industry overstate the amount of gas that can be recovered from fracking by using figures for 'gas in place' rather than that which could possibly be recoverable, which is a fraction of that?

A: Estimates of gas in place are routinely used as this is the quantity of gas physically in the rock. The amount of gas that is ultimately recoverable is dependent upon the technology applied and generally increases over time as technology advances. In the case of UK shale, estimates of recoverable gas will only be possible once the results of initial production tests are available.

Q: Why does the industry claim that "fracking has been done safely in the UK for 60 years without problems"? Only one well has been the subject of high volume high pressure hydraulic fracturing and that was at Preese Hall, Preston, in 2011, which caused earth tremors and wrecked the well. That is a 100% failure rate.

A: Thousands of wells are hydraulically fractured around the world every year. The technique is commonly applied offshore in the UK and much of UK gas production comes from wells that have undergone hydraulic fracturing.

Q: Isn't the 'gold standard regulation' which the industry claims to have, a meaningless expression? Isn't it, in fact, true that it is the company that is responsible for safe operation irrespective of any regulatory regime?

A: Whilst the company is responsible for safe operations the existence of a robust goal-setting, rather than prescriptive, regulatory regime is a key factor in the UK having a globally-recognised reputation in the regulation of oil and gas operations.

Q: We hear repeatedly from the industry that "only non-toxic materials are used in fracking". Isn't it true to say that any health risks arise more from what comes back up than what goes down? Therefore isn't that a diversion from the real problem which is the sheer volume of hazardous waste as confirmed in the Institute of Directors' Report funded by Cuadrilla using data provided by Cuadrilla?

A: The safe treatment of all industrial wastes is controlled by permit by the Environment Agency. They, in common with the other regulatory bodies, are satisfied that a shale gas industry in the UK can be developed safely without harm to the environment.

Fracking firm bosses quizzed by residents

Report by **Kenny Parker**

HUNDREDS of residents and anti-fracking campaigners attended a public information day organised by Aurora Energy Resources about its proposals to mine for shale gas at Altcar Moss.

An estimated 400-plus people turned up for the event at Haskayne Village Hall on Saturday (February 17) which saw plans on display for the public to view and representatives of Aurora's project team, including managing director, Ian Roche, on hand to answer questions.

It followed Aurora's submission of a scoping request to Lancashire County Council, which is the first step to performing test drills to evaluate the potential for fracking at the site.

Mr Roche said: "Events such as these are important as they provide an opportunity for members of the local community to view the initial proposals and to ask the project team any questions that they may have.

"Aurora Energy Resources is committed to engaging with the local community. This is our first step in the consultation process and we will be keeping the community updated throughout.

"There will also be formal consultations by Lancashire County Council and the Environment Agency in conjunction with any future planning or environmental permit application."

However, Maureen Mills chairwoman of the Halsall Against Fracking group, said the event didn't tell them anything they didn't know already.

She said: "Just as we expected, Aurora had nothing to tell us about fracking that we didn't already know and didn't have answers for many of our questions.

Aurora managing director Ian Roche answers questions at Saturday's public consultation at Haskayne Village Hall.

"There was a lot of 'don't knows' and 'we will have to sees'."

And she added: "One of their 'exhibits' set out conventional oil and gas exploration historically in the region and mentioned Preese Hall, Preston, but neglected to mention that it was the one and only similar type of fracking operation in the UK and it caused seismic events and damaged the wellbore.

"We were not impressed, in fact seriously under-whelmed would better describe the reaction of attendees.

"We will be collating all the questions asked and answers given into a report and feeding it back to Aurora."

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Recognition for blood donor Graham's ton-up milestone

A BLOOD donor from West Lancashire has been recognised for his commitment to helping save lives by the NHS Blood and Transplant Service.

Graham Welsh, from Aughton *(pictured, right)* was among donors from throughout the region who attended a special ceremony at Knowsley Hall.

The 68-year-old, who has donated 100 units, received a ruby donor card and a commemorative medal, badge and certificate.

Further awards and ceremonies take place after donors reach their 150th, 250th, 500th, 750th and 1,000th donations.

A spokesperson for the NHS Blood and Transplant Service, said: "Blood and platelet donors do an amazing thing when they donate. Without their kind generosity, many patients simply would not be alive today."

Artists team up

WORKS by members of the Alma Hill Art Group and pupils from St Thomas the Martyr CE Primary School, Up Holland, will be displayed on Saturday and Sunday, February 24 and 25 at Alma Hill Methodist Church, Up Holland, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Admission is free but donations to Alder Hey Children's Hospital are welcome.

There will also be a special service at the church on Sunday at 11am led by Reverend Rachel Deigh. All are welcome to attend.

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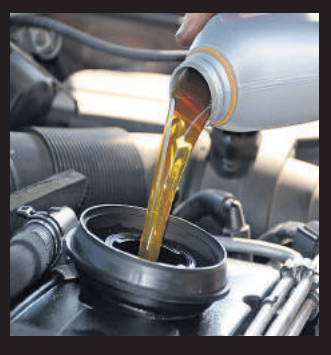

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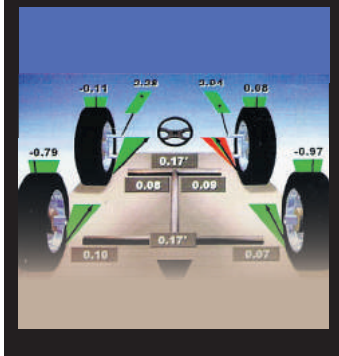

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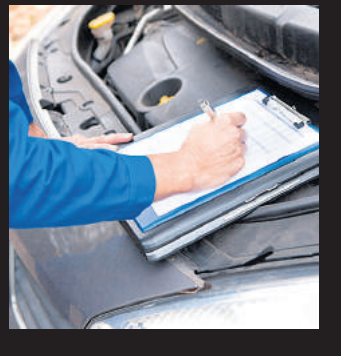

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Helpers wanted for community spring clean in town centre

MEMBERS of the independent political group, Our West Lancashire are asking local residents to join them for a 'community spring clean' in Ormskirk town centre on Saturday, March 3 as part of the national Great British Spring Clean event organised by the Keep Britain Tidy group.

Derby ward councillor, Ian Davis, said: "Many of the alleyways in the town centre off and behind the main shopping streets are littered or even have vegetation growing out of the base of buildings.

"This is often the first impression given of our town to people walking from car parks to the shopping areas and we aim to do something about it."

And Jane Thompson, OWL's Scott ward spokesperson, added: "We are organising a clean-up of the alleyways and have the equipment available for it. We've already had some offers of help from local people but the amount we are able to achieve in the clean-up depends on how many local people come and give an hour or so of their time.

"So, if you can help on Saturday March 3, please come along. We are meeting at the Clock Tower at 10.30am."

Anyone able to help is asked to contact Our West Lancashire by calling 01695 351361 or by email at office@ourwestlancashire.com.

22 bags of rubbish collected in litter-pick

A GROUP of Labour councillors and community activists teamed up to tackle the litter problem on the footpath between Ormskirk Railway Station and the town's bus station.

The litter-pick, organised by Scott ward councillor Noel Delaney and community activist Michelle Aldridge, saw a dozen people spend a morning picking up litter on the path and collected a total of 22 large bags of rubbish.

Cllr. Delaney said: "I walk this way every day and the amount of rubbish I see is a huge disappointment as it is often the first impression visitors have of Ormskirk. I mentioned the problem to my Labour colleagues and they offered to come and help.

Councillor Delaney (centre) and volunteers who joined in with the litter-pick.

"Many people stopped and thanked us for our efforts. Although the pathway is the responsibility of Network Rail, it was long overdue a clean-up. I'd also like to thank Street Scene for removing the bags of rubbish for us.

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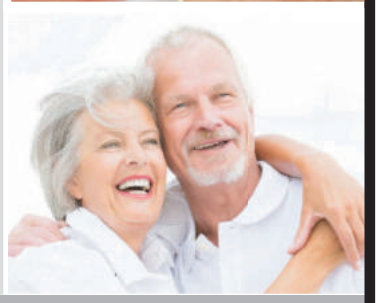

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Unions call another one-day strike in ongoing rail dispute

MEMBERS of the RMT union at Merseyrail and Northern are set to stage another one-day strike on Saturday, March 3.

The action is the latest in a series of stoppages in the ongoing dispute over the future role of guards following the planned introduction of driver-only trains.

Merseyrail bosses, who claim no one will lose their jobs when the new trains are introduced, have labelled the strike "senseless" and described the union as being "stuck in a time warp."

However union officials say the dispute is about "attacks on the role of the safety-critical guard and the extension of driver only operation in the name of increased profits."

And they have accused Merseyrail management of refusing to negotiate over the issue as companies have done in other areas.

RMT general secretary, Mick Cash, said: "Every effort RMT has made to reach a negotiated settlement has been kicked back in our faces.

"This dispute is about putting the safety of the public before the profits of the private train companies

"It is ludicrous that we have been able to negotiate long-term arrangements in Scotland and Wales that protect the guards and passenger safety but are being denied the same opportunities with rail companies in England.

"The Government are happy to cheer on overseas rail companies that rip-off the British passenger with eye-watering fare increases to subsidise their domestic transport operations while throwing the guards off our trains."

Merseyrail has called on the RMT to "prioritise the future of their members and get back round the table for talks".

A spokesperson for the company said: "This is a senseless dispute because not one single employee will lose their job and is more to do with the RMT being stuck in a time warp.

A computerised image of what the new Merseyrail trains will look like

"The RMT is failing to recognise and consider that evolutionary change through modernisation and changes to working practices is vital to meet the needs and expectations of the 21st century customer.

"Our new fleet of trains will enhance the service provided to customers."

Merseyrail managing director, Andy Heath, added: "We have continually sought to reach a compromised solution, however, the RMT remain intent on causing disruption to our customers. We will endeavour to provide the best possible rail service that we can to our customers, with the resources we have available, as we have been providing on previous strike days."

And Richard Allan, Northern's deputy managing director, commented: "We are still prepared to guarantee jobs and hold pay reviews for conductors until the end of our franchise in 2025, with the Government guaranteeing jobs beyond that if RMT ends its strike action. RMT has recently rejected our request to hold a fresh ballot of Northern conductors after nearly a year of strike action.

"We are concentrating our efforts on running as many services as possible on Saturday, March 3 to keep our customers moving."

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Eager Beavers get busy with donations for village food bank

EAGER Beavers from the Burscough (45th Ormskirk Methodist) group have been busy doing their bit for the needy in the local community.

Members of the group went along to the Tesco store in Liverpool Road North to buy items to donate to the food bank based at the village's Grove Neighbourhood and Community Centre.

Sue Lamb, co-ordinator at the centre in Station Approach, gave the youngsters a talk about the food bank, which items were most needed and the importance of checking on 'best before date' when selecting their donations.

A total of 17 Beavers took part, each using £2 of their own money to buy goods for the food bank.

And they were divided into two groups competing to see who could get the most for their money.

Some of the Beavers from the 45th Ormskirk (Burscough Methodist) group pictured during their trip to Tesco with group leader, Ann Molyneux and food bank co-ordinator, Sue Lamb.

Music society name spring concert date

THE Ormskirk Music Society has announced details of its spring concert to be held on Saturday, March 17 at Ormskirk School, Wigan Road.

This will see the society's orchestra performing Tchaikovsky's dramatic Fourth Symphony ('Fate') and Arthur Sullivan's animated Overture di Ballo.

Meanwhile, the society, which is a registered charity, is also delighted to welcome back star pianist, Tom Kimmance, who will perform Edward Grieg's imaginative piano concerto in A Minor.

Under the baton of musical director, Jim Cooke, the orchestra performs a broad range of music, from the great symphonies and concertos, to the work of contemporary British composers, film music and light orchestral selections. They give four concerts each year - three jointly with the society's choir and one exclusively orchestral concert.

Tickets for the concert, priced £10 and £5 for children, are available in advance from the society's publicity officer, Catherine Ness on 01695 556548 or by email at catherine.oms@btinternet.com; or on the door on the night.

Couple start online petition in bid to win parking permit

Report by **Kenny Parker**

A COUPLE who say they have to park their car a five-minute walk away from their home due to parking restrictions, have launched an online petition calling on West Lancs Council to provide residents parking permits for a nearby council car park.

Shawn Miller, who lives with partner Lauren and their two-year-old daughter Jessica in Derby Street West, Ormskirk has already been refused a permit for the Stiles car park by the council, but he hopes that by drumming up public support he can persuade the authority to reverse the decision.

When the couple moved in they didn't have a car but after buying a vehicle in December, Shawn approached the council for a permit to use the Stiles car park. However, he was only offered a permit for Hants Lane which he says is no good as it is still too far away.

It costs them £5.50 per day to park near their home at the Stiles car park. The only alternative, says Shawn, is to park a five or 10-minute walk away, forcing them to cross busy roads with Jessica's pram and leaving Lauren, who works nights, faced with a potentially dangerous walk when going or coming home from work.

He said; "Its awful. We are currently parking at the top of Green Lane which is a good five or 10-minute walk away. It' s a nightmare when we have all our shopping and the pram for the baby.

"Also, my fiancée does night shifts and when she finishes in the early hours of the morning, she has to walk home in the pitch dark and crossing busy main roads."

Shawn at The Stiles Car Park on Derby Stree

Shawn, who has also contacted MP Rosie Cooper for help, added: "It is dangerous trying to cross the main road at the front of our house with Jessica as well, now that she is starting to walk."

To date his petition, which can be found at website change.org, has attracted 83 signatures.

A spokesman for West Lancs Council responded: "It is not uncommon for residencies within West Lancashire to have no facility or scope for parking within the curtilage of the property. Mr Miller would have been well aware there was no off-street parking provision at this property when he moved in. It is not the borough council's responsibility to make special provisions when this situation arises.

"Hants Lane is the designated borough council town centre parking permit car park for Ormskirk and Mr Miller could apply for a parking permit at this site."

Ambulance service launches new Instagram account

THE North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) NHS Trust is giving social media users the chance to 'see behind the scenes' of its work with the launch of a new Instagram account.

The account, @TeamNWAS, went live on Monday (February 19), and will feature the different faces of the organisation.

Each week a different member of the team will take control of the account, giving followers an insight into what life as an ambulance service worker is all about.

And while most services have their own Instagram accounts, this is believed to be the first in the country to give control of a dedicated account to its frontline teams.

NWAS employs almost 6,000 staff in more than 300 different roles across the region, including paramedics, dispatchers, ambulance care assistants, 111 health advisors and urgent care practitioners.

First to take the reins is advanced paramedic David Blowers.

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We are so excited to announce our latest sewing and upholstery courses that are to be run in the impressive fully equipped sewing rooms, The "Sew Fab Academy" in Skelmersdale.

Paula explains "We have the most amazing tutors and together we have carefully crafted a number of courses that we feel will appeal to almost everyone. These bespoke courses will be very popular. The class size will be kept to a minimum. This ensures that all participants will get 1-2-1 attention and value for money

In addition to our classes we are able to offer personal private tuition @ £50 per hr this can be tailored to meet your individual need.

Another exciting offer is on Fridays, the sewing rooms is available to those budding sewers and designers who may not have the equipment or space at home, you can use the facilities in the "Sewing Rooms" that include cutting tables and sewing machines for £30 per day. This includes use of industrial machines flat bed, overlockers 3,4 ad 5 thread, blind hemmer, button hole, walking foot.

You must be experienced to use the industrial machines, we also have domestic machines for use.

Sewing is "sew" popular at the moment explains Maureen "The ability to make your own outfits or fix a wonky zip has never been so popular and celebrities including Dannii Minogue, Julia Roberts and Dame Judi Dench have all revealed a penchant for making everything from cushions to children's clothes.
"There are so many people out there who are creative and with a little know-how they discover they can make beautiful and unique garments. We can help you achieve that"

The Sewing Rooms social enterprise is a business just like any other business-what sets us apart explains Paula " its what we do with our profits that makes all the difference to the communities where we work. So, when you pay for one of our courses, or we make your curtains, or you buy one of our bespoke products such as the patchwork chairs you are "Buying Social" and helping us to continue doing the great work and creating impacting and social value. "
To book a course, or for further information regarding curtain making , private tuition or using the facilities. Contact Paula at the sewing rooms on

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COST: £135

Tutor: Michelle Aras
Maximum 6 participants
If you want to learn on your own sewing machine you can bring it along, alternatively we have a fully equipped training suite.

Content covers:
Using a domestic sewing machine, threading , functions, care and maintenance, seam types, inserting zips, using button hole, the course will also involve making a tote bag, make-up bag, cutting and tracing a commercial pattern, soft furnishings including making cushion types, envelope, square, oblong

Monday 6pm -9pm
March 12th, 19th, 26th
April 2nd, 9th, 16th

HOW TO FOLLOW A PATTERN AND MAKE A GARMENT

COST: £135

Tutor: Michelle Aras

Content covers:
Basic knowledge and experience of using a sewing machine is required for this course

You will learn how to follow a commercial pattern and make a garment from scratch ,

If you are going to a wedding or the races and want to make something original. This is the course for you
Participants will bring their own pattern and fabric

Tuesday 6pm -9pm
March 13th, 20th, 27th
April 3rd, 10th, 17th

2 WEEK INDUSTRIAL SEWING COURSE

COST: £60

Tutor: Michelle Aras

Content covers:
Participants will learn how to use industrial machines
This course is perfect for anyone interested in work within an industrial setting

You will learn conduct around machinery, health and safety. Using lockstitch machine, Walking Food, Commercial button hole, Taking control of flatbed machine speed, stitch length back tack, Overlockers 3, 4 and 5 thread

Build your speed and confidence

Saturday 9:30pm - 12:30pm
March 17th, 24th

6 WEEK HOW TO FOLLOW A PATTERN & MAKE A GARMENT

COST: £135

Tutor: Michelle Aras

Content covers:
Basic knowledge and experience of using a sewing machine is required for this course

You will learn how to follow a commercial pattern and make a garment from scratch ,
If you are going to a wedding or the races and want to make something original.
This is the course for you

Participants will bring their own pattern and fabric

Saturday 9:30pm - 12:30pm
March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
April 5th, 12th

6 WEEK MAKE YOUR OWN 1950'S VINTAGE DRESS

COST: £135

Tutor: Cath Carmichael

Content covers:

This course is for beginners with some experience of sewing and use of domestic machine participants will supply their own fabric

Stand out at the races or a special event with your very own bespoke vintage dress

Monday 6pm -9pm
March 14th, 21st, 28th
April 4th, 11th, 18th

6 WEEK RE-USE REDESIGN HOW TO RECREATE USING OLD CLOTHING

COST: £135

Content covers:
How to upcycle and re-create new designs from old and loved clothing.

This is a creative class participants need to have basic sewing skills you will need to brig your own garments, it may be a wedding dress, an evening gown or a beloved dress, jeans whatever! Get creative and make something unique from your old clothes.

Sat 1pm – 4pm
March 17th, 24th
April 7th 14th 21st 28th

6 WEEK SHIRT MAKING COURSE

COST: £135

Tutor: Cath Carmichael
This course is for experienced domestic sewers

Content covers:
Pattern cutting and all aspects of garment construction participants will bring their own fabric

Stand out at the races or a special event with your very own bespoke vintage dress

Thursday 6pm – 9pm
March 15th, 22th, 29th
April 5th, 12th, 19th

6 WEEK EMBROIDERY MINDFULL SEWING COURSE

COST: £135

Tutor: Laura Scott

Content covers:
Join Laura to experience the calming effect and creativity of embroidery, this course not only teaches you techniques and methods of embroidery but also provides an environment of peace and tranquillity providing participants with the an opportunity to be in the moment whilst demonstrating their creativity through the medium of embroidery.

All resources, silks and threads are provided

Tuesday 9.30am – 12.30pm
March 13th, 20th, 27th
April 3rd, 10th, 17th

3 WEEK COURSE INTRODUCTION TO UPHOLSTERY WITH OUR MASTER CRAFTSMAN

COST: £150

Tutor: Tom Hogg

Content covers:
Learn the basic principles of upholstery
PPI and health and safety during
the course participants will Cover a
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Saturday 9.30am – 12.30pm
March 13th, 20th, 27th
April 3rd, 10th, 17th

5 WEEK UPHOLSTERY COURSE COVER YOUR OWN CHAIR WITH TOM HOGG

COST: £250

Tutor: Tom Hoggs

Content covers:
Join Tom as you delve into the fabulous world of upholstery you will leave the course with confidence and skills to tackle new projects on your own
Bring your own chair

Saturday 1pm till 4pm
March 17th, 24th
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Innovative prostate op is good news for patients *and* hospital!

Day case procedure means much faster recovery time freeing up beds and saving money for NHS

INNOVATIVE prostate surgery has been carried out for the first time at Ormskirk Hospital.

Consultant Rahul Mistry, a leading urological surgeon, led the procedure aimed at improving the bladder control of patients with enlarged prostates.

A father-of-two from Ormskirk was the first patient to benefit from the treatment, called Uro-Lift, and was delighted with the outcome.

Prostate problems are more common in men aged over 50. An enlarged prostate can cause a lot of discomfort and unpredictability for men when they need to pass water, particularly at night.

The advantage of the new Urolift technique is a much faster recovery time, no routine need for a catheter, and a minimal effect on sexual function.

The patient, who wishes to be known only as Dave and is in his 40s, said: "I'm so much better. I was in and out of hospital within the same day - in fact, the procedure took less than half-an-hour.

"Within three to four days I was fully recovered and I noticed an improvement almost immediately.

Consultant Rahal Mistry (3rd right) and his surgical team

"Mr Mistry fully explained the operation to me beforehand and I would recommend this operation not only to friends and family but to all men who need it.

"I can't believe how quickly it took me to fully recover and be back to how I used to be."

Patients traditionally had to stay in hospital for two to three days and then take a further six weeks off work.

The Urolift procedure is a day case operation, saving the NHS money, and from which the patients will be recovered within two to three weeks.

Mr Mistry added: "It's great news that patients at Ormskirk and Southport hospitals can now benefit from this innovative procedure, quickly recover and go on to lead a normal life again.

"It's also much better value for the NHS as the Urolift is a day case operation which means patients don't have to stay in hospital. Post-operation infection rates are also much lower."

The surgery has been made possible through partnership work between NHS England, North West Innovation Agency, Urolift and Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and the NHS commissioners.

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Housebuilder's £500 donation to Rainbow House

A WEST Lancashire charity which supplies specialist support and learning for children and young people with disabilities has received a cash boost from one of the UK's largest house-building companies.

Taylor Wimpey North West has donated to Rainbow House in Mawdesley as part of its Built for the Community campaign which aims to support charities and community groups in the wider areas where the company has developments.

Rainbow House works with children and young people with disabilities to help them progress in every area of learning and to reach a higher level of independence, while also supporting their families with help and guidance.

Significant

Hayley Scholes, head of services and partnerships at the charity, said: "We are over the moon to receive such a generous donation from the home-builder.

"The money will be put to great use by helping us to provide specialist services including conductive education and physiotherapy, to families who often refer to Rainbow House as their 'lifeline'.

"The support we have received will make a significant difference to the work that we do, so I would like to take this opportunity to say thank-you on behalf of everyone at Rainbow House."

Stuart Craig, head of sales for Taylor Wimpey North West, added: "Rainbow House provides an invaluable service to the children and families that it supports and we are only too pleased to be able to help however we can.

"We are committed to not only creating long-standing communities within our developments, but also to supporting the wider area that we build in to ensure the local organisations and charities can continue to thrive."

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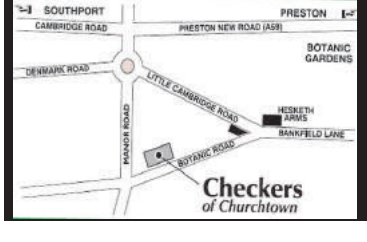

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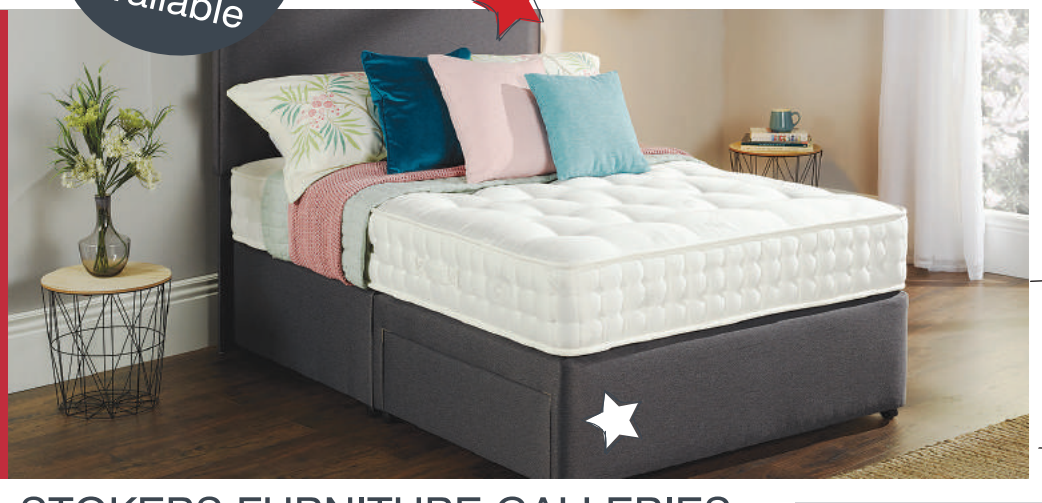

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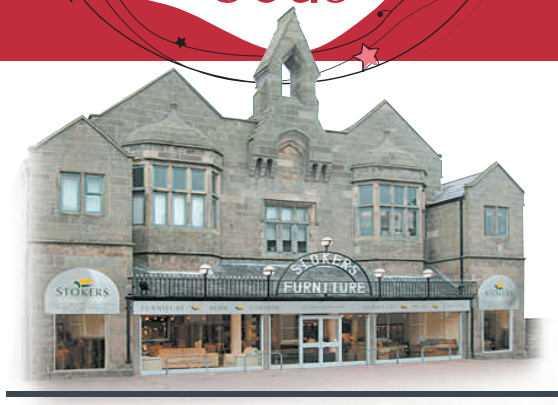

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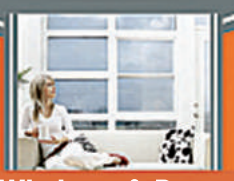

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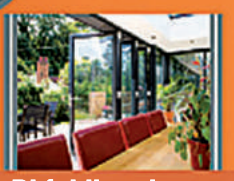

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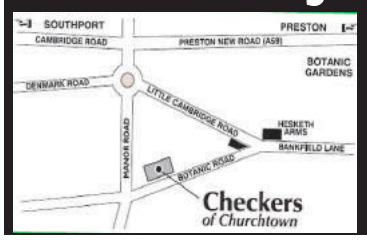

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County police force recognised for commitment to restorative justice

● **Right: Members of Lancashire Police's restorative justice team**

LANCASHIRE Police has been awarded the Restorative Service Quality Mark (RSQM) for its commitment to providing the highest standards in restorative justice.

The RSQM is a badge of quality that guarantees that a service provides safe, high-quality restorative practice which meets the six Restorative Service Standards.

The force joins other RSQM awardees, in sectors ranging from criminal justice, through education and care in delivering high-quality restorative processes.

Helena Cryer, Lancashire Police's restorative justice manager, said: "As an organisation we are really pleased that we have successfully completed the RSQM accreditation.

"To be recognised at this level for our restorative practice is testament to the hard work of my team and gives us all confidence in the service we deliver.

"Completing the RSQM is a great opportunity to reflect on your practices and gain recognition."

And Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, added: "Restorative justice can have a real impact on both victims and offenders.

"It can give victims a chance to get answers following a crime and often provide a way to move on with their lives.

"At the same time, offenders face up to what they have done, understand how their crimes have affected people and have the chance to reform as a result.

"It's a difficult process to embark upon, which is why this recognition for the restorative justice team in Lancashire is so important. It means the public and victims can have confidence in the quality of the support and service they'll get here in the county.

"This award is a credit to the team at Lancashire Police and Lancashire Victim Services who continue to offer the advice and support people need to take this difficult, but often important, step."

Online voting open for county youth parliament

VOTING is now open for Lancashire's Youth Parliament.

Any young person aged 11 to 19 who lives in the county is eligible to vote online until Thursday, March 15.

Members of the Youth Parliament (MYP) will be elected for five areas in the county including Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire, while another will be chosen by the Children in Care Council and the Special Educational Needs and Disability forum.

MYPs organise events and projects, run campaigns and influence decision-makers on the issues which matter most to young people.

Runners-up in the voting will be offered the opportunity to become a Deputy MYP to support the MYPs in these activities.

Young people can find out who is standing for election in their local area and register their vote at website www.lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone.

More information is also available by calling Brian Wood on 07795 222745 or by emailing brian.wood@lancashire.gov.uk.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Glenburn 3G pitch could be incorporated in a new sports centre for town

THE former Glenburn school site has been been put forward as the place where Skelmersdale's proposed railway station is to be sited, while on social media people have posted their views stating they believe the local council will fill the area with housing.

The question has to be exactly what are the owners of the school buildings and field, which includes a 3G pitch, going to do with the site?

The demolishing of the school buildings has begun and should take quite a while for the process to be completed, and yet everything is up in the air at the moment about what will eventually be built there.

It would be a shame to rip up the 3G pitch, so why couldn't the pitch be incorporated into a new sports centre for the town?

It's a facility that the town needs having lost the makeshift sports centre that was sited on Digmoor Road many years ago.

It would be a positive decision if the sports centre could be built and would alleviate the negatives surrounding the new High Street and the railway line and station that seem at the moment to be so much pie in the sky.

Bill Clarke, by email

Lower the voting age to 16? I'd rather raise it!

HAVING just read in your letters page a rather misguided letter urging the reduction of the voting age to 16, I want to know why we are even contemplating this.

I was one of the first to vote when the age was reduced to 18. At that time I had been working for two years as an apprentice so had some small insight as to the ways of the world.

But to give the vote to what is basically a schoolchild with no insight as to the cost of living and budgeting is a very dangerous idea.

And especially so as schools seem to be a platform for the left-leaning teachers to stuff the students' heads with woolly ideas.

In fact, seeing how some of this age group, including up to 25-year-olds, behave, I suggest raising rather than lowering the age for people to vote!

M. Stringman, by email

● What do you think? Is 16 too young to have the vote or do those in that age group have a right to a say on matters which might affect them in the future?

Let's all approach Brexit discussions with open minds

THE letter from James McGregor Champion, February 7) was the voice of sanity and a strong plea for civilised language in discussing Brexit.

So I hope that in following up on my original letter, I can avoid offending people who sincerely want to leave the EU.

I would simply like to inform your readers about a group called 'Best for Britain' which was founded by the highly-respected Gina Miller. It aims to stop the Brexit process through rational argument and to warn the British public of the dangers of a so-called 'hard' or 'soft' Brexit.

I would urge everyone - pro, anti or undecided - to look at the 'Best for Britain' website and reconsider their votes in the referendum.

There is no space here to set out all the material on the website, but it's worth reading with an open mind. This is our last chance.

Maurice George, by email

PICTURE of the week

A low winter sun made a recent rare appearance to highlight shoppers on Southport's Chapel Street. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Councillors should pay for their own expenses

IN response to the letter in last week's Champion headed 'Cut councillors' expenses instead of asking public to pay more for police.'

After reading that the council tax bill for West Lancashire is going to rise twice the rate of inflation (which I find appalling) I totally agree with the call for a reduction of expenses - which I already think should come out of their own pockets - and wages for our councillors.

In this day and age surely they should be looking at other ways of funding?

S. Parry, by email

We're lucky to have our dedicated police

I WOULD like to thank the Ormskirk and Skelmersdale police who helped find my mum, who suffers with dementia, when she went missing.

She went missing in the early hours of February 7 which was particularly cold and frosty.

An officer spotted her before anyone noticed she was missing and returned her home safely. We are so grateful for her safe return.

We are lucky to have to have such dedicated and professional people looking after us all.

Grateful, by email

Jim's all at sea with his royal yacht suggestion

JIM Sharpe's opinions of the possibility of a new royal yacht are well out of place in this current climate of austerity.

Maybe he should highlight instead the Queen's possible personal fortune of around £500 million or the value of the Crown Estate at possibly £11billion, and debate as to whether if she was so heartbroken to lose her yacht she should dig deep into her own pockets and buy herself a new one.

David Gore, by email

Company should cough up for road disruption

I WONDER how much is being paid (if anything!) by the TV/telephone company who are causing so much disruption in County Road, Ormskirk by digging up the pavements to insert new cables?

Hopefully they are paying West Lancs Council (or would it be Lancashire County County Council?) a large sum for causing this disruption.

The residents of Coronation Court are probably suffering delays more than any other West Lancs residents.

Ian Lyster, County Road, Ormskirk

Drop us a line...

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Charity looking for groups to host talks on bowel cancer

BOWEL Cancer UK is looking for work places and community groups to host a talk about bowel cancer, to raise awareness of the UK's second biggest cancer killer.

The 30 minute talk is delivered by a trained health promotion volunteer, who often has a personal experience of bowel cancer.

The programme raises awareness of the disease and good bowel health, highlights the symptoms and risks, and stresses the importance of those who are of screening age to take the bowel cancer screening test when they receive it in the post.

If you are interested in hosting an awareness talk at your work place, community group and any other place that has an existing group or charity, please visit bowelcanceruk.org.uk/ bookatalk or email kathryn.nichols@bowelcanceruk. org.uk

Bowel Cancer UK

Figures for public consultation on police precept are misleading

CLIVE Grunshaw claims the Government are responsible for police under-funding and he refers to a public consultation where 78% of those who took part voted in favour of a precept increase.

He does not state the number of people who took part. Without this, 78% is a meaningless fudge and in short an exaggeration, or downright attempt to mislead.

He stated the same last year. 40,000 ratepayers live in West Lancs. 78% of 40,000 is 38,200.

How many did take part and why does he try and mislead us?

We are continually being misled with false statistics by Government and council.

Why can't they come clean?

Graham P. Walker,
Up Holland

Call to make the most of mobile library service

Nearly 10,000 registered users but new customers always welcome

LANCASHIRE County Council chiefs are urging residents to make the most of its mobile library service.

Although there are currently nearly 10,000 registered users of the six-string fleet, new customers are always welcome and can join by simply signing up on one of the vehicles.

The mobile libraries reach some of the most remote parts of the county and are particularly important for people who would find it difficult to travel to their nearest library.

The vehicles carry a wide range of books to suit all tastes and titles are changed regularly, with new ones being added frequently.

Books can also be ordered, just the same as in a static library, while a variety of audio books and CDs are also available.

One of the county council's mobile library vehicles.

Valued

The mobile libraries are fully accessible for people with mobility problems and disabilities and each is fitted with low-rise stairs and a passenger lift.

An induction loop system is also available for people with hearing impairments.

The six vehicles, including one based at Ormskirk, travel around neighbouring areas, making a total of 780 stops across the county.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "We know how much the mobile library is valued by our customers. For people with mobility problems this can literally be a door-to-door service.

"They provide an important facility to some of the most rural parts of Lancashire giving people the chance to borrow, renew or order books as well as access other council services through the people's network."

Communities in rural areas usually receive visits either every two or three weeks.

Anyone resident in the UK can join a Lancashire library, either online or by visiting in person. Membership is free and there are no age restrictions.

Full details of the times and locations of mobile library stops across the county are available at www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries or by calling 0300 123 6703.

'Help us make it to another decade'

Charity's plea for donations or sponsorship

VOLUNTEERS at a local charity which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year are appealing for donors and sponsors to help them keep going for another 10 years.

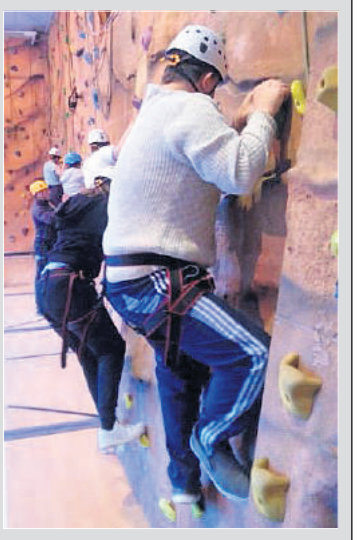
The parent-led Sporting Challenge group provides sporting activities for people with learning disabilities to help them keep fit and healthy.

A wide of range of activities are held, including aerobics, bowling, boccia, kurling, zumba/dance, swimming and other sporting events, and last year the group organised its first short break.

They currently support around 50 people in the West Lancashire area, providing them with transport to and from their homes and appropriate sessional workers to support them while they carry out the activities.

This number is expected to grow in the future. Around a third of the members are aged between 16 and 22.

Secretary and activities co-ordinator, Edward McCarthy said: "I would like to ask the generous residents and businesses of West Lancashire to make a donation to our charity in its 10th year to help us reach the next 10 years.



Members of Sporting Challenge on an activities weekend in the Lake District.

"Any offer of a one-off donation or sponsorship for one of our activities would be greatly appreciated.

"I would also like to thank everyone who has been involved over the last 10 years - the support staff, parents and carers, the trustees, committee members and members of the group themselves who come to all our activities and have such a great time week in week out."

Anyone interested in making a donation or sponsoring event can email westlancsedward@btinternet.com or call 07971 299 606.

At participating centres only, offers exclude online, conditions apply, call your local centre for details.

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Views wanted on county's dementia strategy

A WEST Lancs borough councillor is urging all interested parties and members of the public to submit their views on Lancashire County Council's draft Lancashire Dementia Strategy.

Councillor Gareth Dowling, Labour repesentative for Ormskirk's Knowsley ward, played a key role in the drafting of the Lancashire Dementia Strategy 2018-2023 on behalf of Dementia Action Alliance, a group he set up when he worked for Alzheimer's Society.

The strategy, which has also had input from hospital trusts, Alzheimer's Society and Age UK, outlines the county council's vision to make a positive difference to the lives of people with dementia in Lancashire.

The council says it aims to facilitate the development of a dementia-friendly Lancashire to support prevention, awareness, early detection and support for people with dementia, in partnership with other organisations.

Experience

People living with dementia, their carers, family and organisations supporting them, as well as members of the public, can all comment on the draft strategy which can be found at www.lancashire.gov.uk/HaveYourSay.

Cllr. Dowling, West Lancs Council's deputy portfolio holder for communities and older people and a member of Dementia Friendly West Lancashire says it is important that the public give their views on the document.

He said: "The organisations responsible for supporting those living with dementia have spent a long time pulling this strategy together and a lot of experience and expertise has gone into it. But it is important that the public read and comment on it before its adoption."

Comments can be made by emailing natalie.burfitt@lancashire.gov.uk. The deadline for any feedback is Wednesday, February 28.

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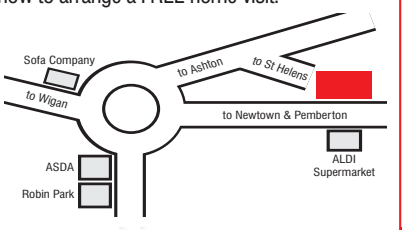

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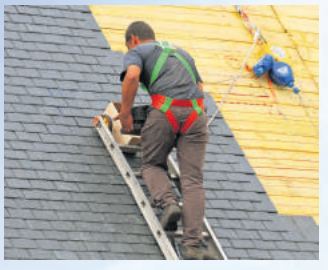
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Village musical festival strikes a winning note for good causes

SIX charities have been handed a welcome boost - thanks to the efforts of the organisers and supporters of the annual Bickerstock Music Festival.

The festival, staged in Bickerstaffe on the first weekend of August, aims to promote live music and bring the local community together while raising welcome funds for good causes.

The proceeds of the 2017 event were handed over to representatives of Guide Dogs for the Blind, North West Air Ambulance, Carla Lane Animals in Need, Rainbow House, Crossroads Care, and Bickerstaffe Pensioners at a presentation evening held at The Junction pub in Rainford, home of Bickerstock founder, Paul Draper.

Making the presentations was local businessman Alan Draper, a long-time supporter and patron of Bickerstock.

Martin Adams, who chairs the festival's organising committee, said: "The 2017 Bickerstock Festival was a great success in every way, and proceeds exceeded all expectations.

"We are so grateful to everyone who supported the festival - the bands and volunteers, without whom it just wouldn't happen, and all those who came to listen to the music, enjoy the day, and spend their money!

"Thanks to all of them we were so pleased to be able to make donations to local good causes of well over £2,500 this year.

"We are now busy planning - and looking forward to - Bickerstock 2018. So keep that first weekend in August free!

"And we are always looking for more volunteers to help us make the festival even better."

Alan Draper (right) is pictured at the presentation evening with representatives of the charities to benefit from the 2017 festival

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Local history groups join forces for two-day nostalgia fest

THERE will be a chance for nostalgia lovers to wallow in sepia-tinged memories of West Lancashire in days gone by when a number of local history groups stage a combined exhibition over the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4.

The event, to be opened by Deputy Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Noel Delaney, will be held in the main hall of the Stanley Club in Liverpool Road North, Burscough, from 10am to 4pm.

Images of Burscough and Surrounding Areas, Lathom & Burscough Military Heritage Society and Ormskirk & District Family History Society will be present on both days, while Paul Smith's Ormskirk Museum will exhibit on Saturday only and Burscough Heritage Group on Sunday only.

Admission is free and there is ample car parking to the rear of the club.

Images of Burscough's exhibition will feature more than 600 photographs and a wide range of local memorabilia. And several old local cine films will be played on a large screen in the hall, including a recently-acquired Southport promotional film from 1956.

The exhibition also features items from Rufford, Lathom, Newburgh, Parbold, Scarisbrick and Ormskirk.

There will also be a stall selling books, photos, mounted prints, DVDs and other memorabilia.

Michael Dawson, founder of Images of Burscough, said that the group is always on the lookout for old local photos to add to their archive. Anyone who has any old photos is welcome to take them along to the exhibition.

For more details about Images of Burscough and Surrounding Areas check out their website at www.images-of-burscough.co.uk

Residents of Burscough lined up along Liverpool Road South to witness the passing of a Royal motorcade with the then Princess Elizabeth on board circa late 40s/early 1950s

New county council role to lead on economic strategy

A NEW lead member for economic development and cultural services has been appointed at Lancashire County Council.

County Councillor Aidy Riggott will undertake this new role which aims to support the work of cabinet members covering council services including economic development and regeneration, strategic planning, tourism, libraries and museums.

County Councillor Aidy Riggott

Aidy has represented Euxton, Buckshaw and Astley since May 2017 and before his election to the county council he was previously head of operations for a toy company and an electronics company.

With a commercial business background before going into politics, Aidy says he is looking to bring a new perspective to how the council works with the private sector.

He said: "I'm from a private sector background so I'm looking forward to using my knowledge and expertise to help the county council to encourage inward investment, create new jobs, and continue to develop and grow the Lancashire economy.

"This important role also includes cultural services. We're currently in the process of re-opening libraries and it's clear they're seen by people as a key part of community life.

"We'll continue looking at ways to develop our library service for people in Lancashire and as chairman of Friends of Euxton Library, I am keen to develop the friends network and establish this as part of our wider library offer."

Bibles donated to church in memory of loved ones

PARISHIONERS have donated Bibles to their local church in memory of their loved ones.

A special presentation and dedication of 44 new pew Bibles, each of which has the name of a loved one inscribed in it, took place at Bickertstaffe's Holy Trinity Church.

The service was led by Reverend Andrew Housley and families and friends were present to have the Bibles blessed.

Deputy church warden Edward McCarthy said: "The new Bibles will be used for many years to come and are an important part of our church history."

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Online information guide for stroke survivors

STROKE survivors, relatives, carers, healthcare professionals and support groups have been working together to ensure that information is available for people about stroke and stroke services in Lancashire.

The Stroke Information Guide aims to provide good-quality, appropriate information for stroke patients and their families/carers.

Available at www.healthierlsc.co.uk/stroke-guide, it covers five key areas - understanding stroke-related terms; preventing a first stroke or further strokes; time in hospital; survivorship and recovery; and local contact information.

Dr Mark O'Donnell, medical director at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "All strokes are different and so affect people in very different ways, some will have physical problems like troubles with movement and balance, vision or swallowing, others will have hidden complications like problems handling their emotions, memory and even communicating.

"The aim of this guide is to make sure that people aren't left in the dark. It is written so that they can have an understanding of the terminology they have heard, what to expect when they're in hospital, know how to prevent strokes, and information about what happens through recovery and where to get more support."

Gizmo's feline lonely again!

A CAT whose owner has passed away seven years after it was re-homed from an animal shelter, is once again looking for a new 'forever' home.

Gizmo, a 15-year-old black moggie, was handed in to Woodlands Animal Sanctuary in Sandy Lane, Holmeswood in 2008, before finally being adopted by a new owner, Ash, in 2011.

Gizmo the cat is seeking a new 'forever' home

And the pair were so well matched that Gizmo used to pull his fur out when they were separated!

Sadly though Gizmo was returned to the shelter when Ash passed away last month.

Sally McDerby from Woodlands said: "Black cats can be very difficult to re-home but seven years ago Ash gave Gizmo a chance of happiness and after some initial teething problems, they became very attached to each other - so much so that when Ash went on holiday Gizmo was so upset he pulled the fur out of his back by excessive self-grooming due to stress!

"Ash soon came to realise that Gizmo was going to rule his life and holidays were no longer an option! They were truly devoted to one another.

"At the beginning of January, we received a phone call to inform us that Ash had passed away. This left Gizmo alone and he was brought back to the shelter to be cared for by the team until a suitable home can be found for this quirky, beautiful and misunderstood cat.

"He needs to live with adults who have no visiting children or other pets; must have access to a garden; and ideally someone who is at home a lot but is prepared to give him the space he needs to be himself.

"If you think you can help, please call the sanctuary on 01704 823293."

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Survey findings confirm my 'bus is best' theory

A RECENT survey of pedestrians and car drivers apparently found that the road users they both want to avoid are cyclists and van drivers, with vehicles not signalling or using mobile phones the No.1 'no-nos'.

Now personally I have no particular beef with van drivers (a friend of mine who used to drive a van regularly got very hot under the collar whenever I referred to 'White Van Man') but some cyclists, not on the road but on the pavement, would certainly get my vote.

I know I've said this before, but the practice of many car drivers in simply not bothering to signal if the road is free of other motorised conveyances is not only annoying to those of us on foot, but sometimes extremely dangerous too.

For me though, the best result to come out of this survey was the group voted as the safest on the road - bus drivers! Reading this article while travelling to Southport (on a bus naturally) set me thinking. During my life I must have driven thousands of miles and been driven thousands more. I have also travelled the length and breadth of the country in coaches and on buses. Quite simply, I realised that on any journey by car I was always on the look-out for possible danger. But on a bus - no.

On reflection, it always seemed a safe place to be because I have great faith in the skill of its driver. I know that he or she has been trained to the most exacting standards and the vehicle itself, even if a few years old, is almost certainly rigorously maintained and checked daily.

I regularly see bus drivers slow or stop to let cars pull out ahead of them. Seldom, if ever, have I seen a bus turn in to or out of a road without signalling. Statistically your chance of being injured in a bus are far lower than in a car, though a train would be safer still and a plane safest of all. But until a budget airline starts flying from Maghull to Southport I'll have to forgo that pleasure.

Changing the subject somewhat, but staying with transport, I remember a few years back when I regularly made trips to Norfolk by train, while my late brother George drove my mum, the dogs and the bags and baggage. George would drop me off at Maghull station and set off for sunny Norfolk and he'd be there in time to offload the baggage - and mum and dogs - have a quick cuppa and still be at Wroxham station to meet me, following my train journey taking in a Magical Mystery Tour of the Peak District, Ely and the Fens. Lovely and safe trip though!

On one particular occasion however, I had gone to Lime Street station to book my ticket in advance only to find that all the bargain ones had gone. "Oh dear" I said, or something like that, though dear was the operative word for the full return fare! Being the happy chappy I am, I jocularly told the man at the ticket window that I could have bought a cheap flight to New York for the price quoted. "Yes, I suppose you could", he agreed. "Not many of them stop at Norwich though!"

Ticket office man one, Jim nil.

Now, I am fortunate indeed that some very kind friends transport me, Tina, Cinders and our luggage there and back again. But really grateful as I am, I honestly wish I could go back to travelling by train and manage the task of taking the two dogs and even the minimum of luggage with me.

Mind you, if I am ever once again to take long-distance train journeys it looks as though I'd better do it ASAP. I've read in one of the railway magazines that some twonks are making plans to do away with paper tickets altogether and just have online bookings, which would be a problem for computer illiterate idiots like me.

My only consolations are that this may not happen; and that it already has on certain budget airlines which removes any temptation to experience the apparent awfulness of them.

Care trust in call to keep an eye on elderly relatives and neighbours during cold weather

HEALTH professionals from Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust are encouraging people to look out for elderly and vulnerable relatives and neighbours during cold weather.

Studies show that living alone can be harmful to health and is associated with depression, sleep problems and mental illness.

As a result, older people and those with long-term health conditions are particularly susceptible to illness and isolation during the winter months when it is harder to get out and about.

Michaela Toms, head of nursing in the trust's Community and Wellbeing Network, said: "The weather since the new year has been particularly cold and older people and those with long-term illness are often home alone and can feel isolated which can then lead to ill health.

"We are encouraging people to help the elderly and vulnerable people they know by doing simple little things, like dropping in to see your neighbours once a week. It doesn't take long and can actually be a valuable way of making a difference."

The trust also suggest the following tips on looking after elderly neighbours:

- Check if the elderly people you know are well, particularly if they don't seem their usual self or they look unwell.
- Ask if you can collect any prescriptions they need or take them to any appointments.
- Make sure their home is heated to at least 18 to 21 degrees throughout the winter.
- Ensure they are eating well and have a good supply of essential and store cupboard food to keep them going.
- Encourage them to get heating and cooking appliances safety checked.
- If it snows, clear their path, front steps or doorway areas for them, or better still, encourage them to stay in.

Michaela Toms

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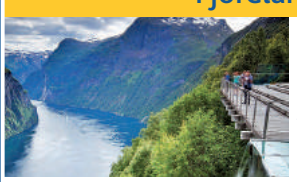

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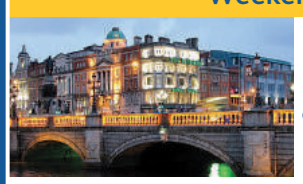

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PR students get 'hands-on' experience boosting park's profile

PUBLIC Relations students at Edge Hill University have been getting some 'hands-on' experience by helping to promote the health benefits of a public park.

The group from the Ormskirk campus teamed up with Liverpool community organisation, Friends of Springfield Park, to boost the reputation of the park, which is next to and partnered with the city's Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

The Friends of Springfield Park aim to promote and contribute to the development of the park and local community and, in tandem with the hospital, to deliver a 'shared vision of a world-class, health and wellbeing park' with an emphasis on sustainability, healthy living, sports and events.

The eight-strong team from Edge Hill have joined the Friends to help carry out this vision by taking on PR and marketing tasks, recruiting volunteers, fostering partnerships with local schools and planning events to host at the park.

Third-year student and team leader, Lauren Kelly, said they are "very much looking forward to working to further improve the grounds for the local community and the patients and families at Alder Hey."

As part of their effort they have planned three main events to boost the park's profile - a mass dog walk, a park clean-up and a family fun day.

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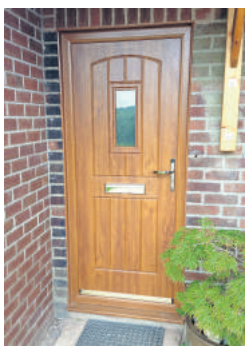

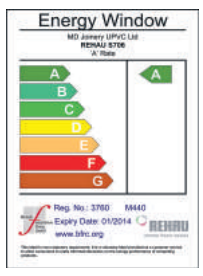

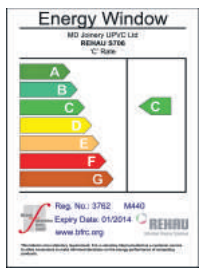

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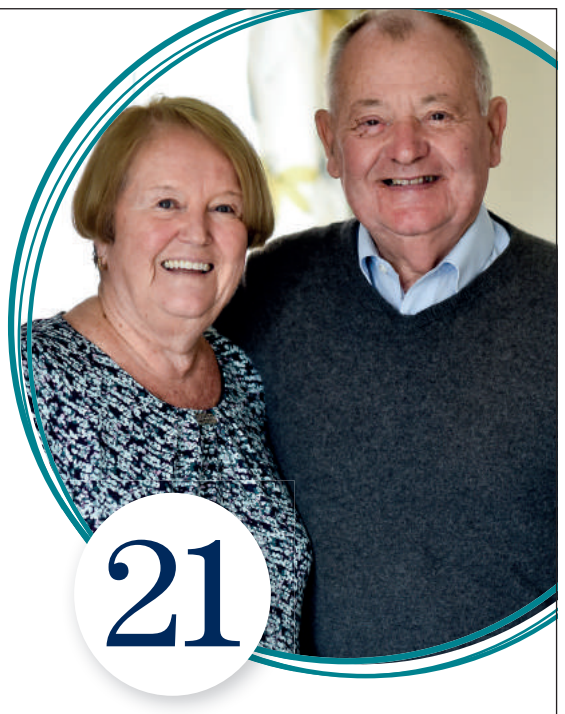

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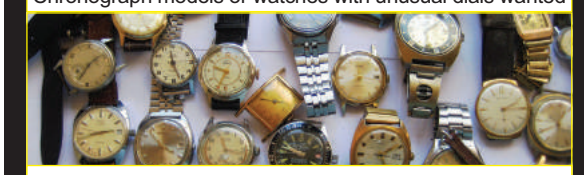

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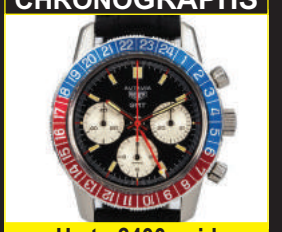

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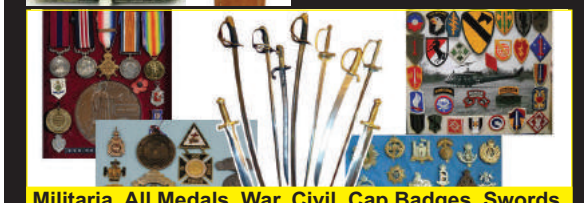

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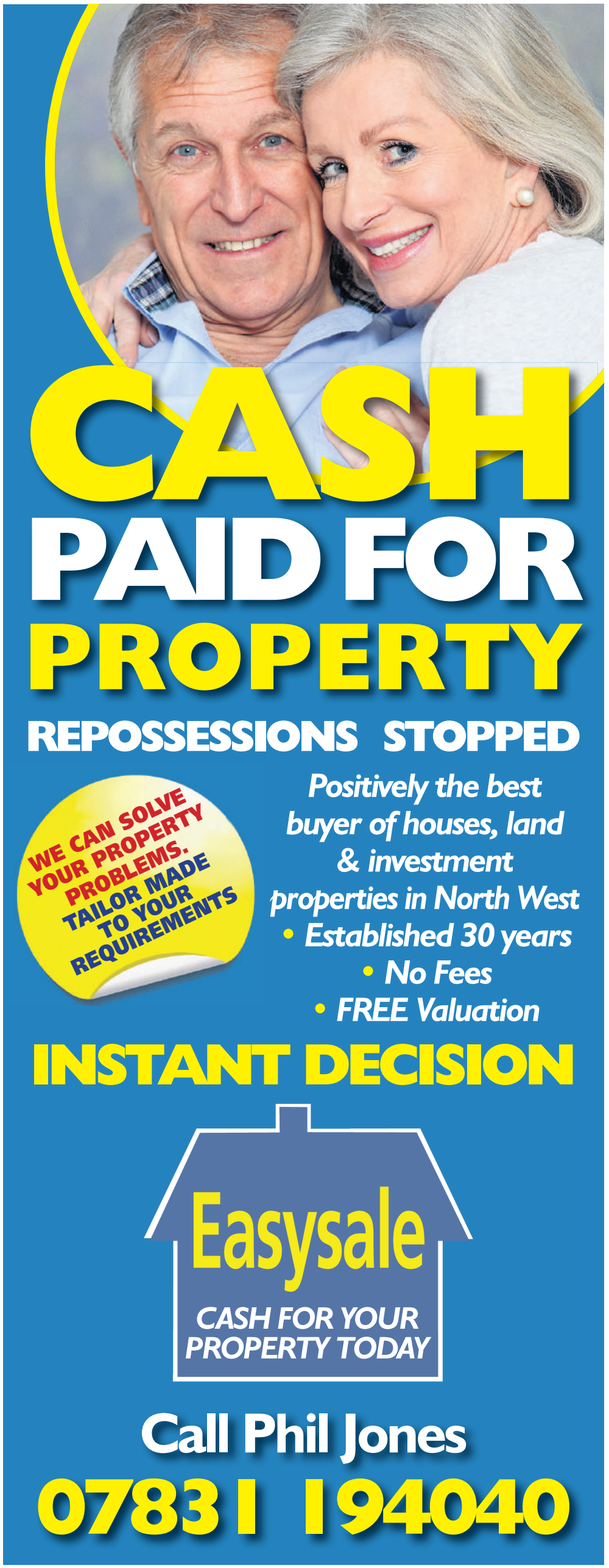

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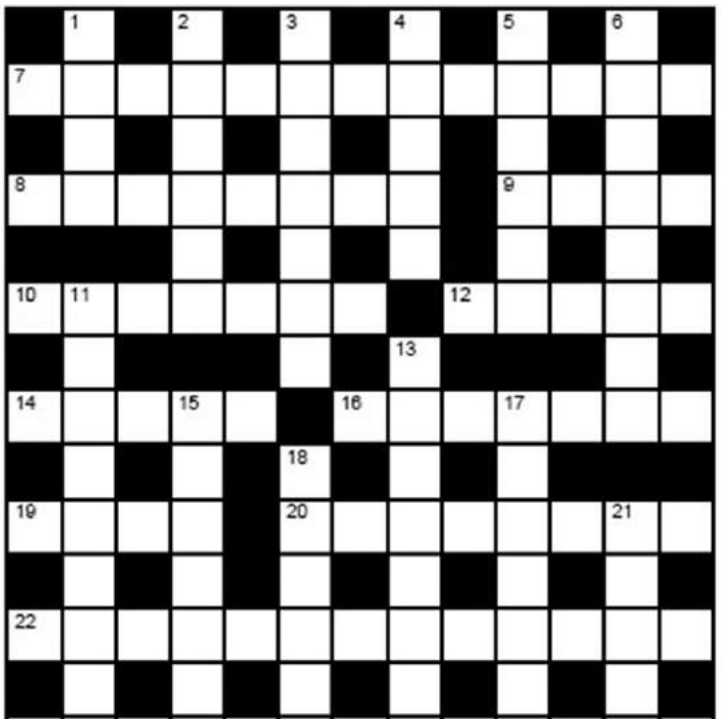

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Create. 8. Namely. 9. Tyre. 10. Trousers. 11. Ungodly. 13. Ditty. 15. Beefy. 17. Blunder. 20. Bonhomie. 21. Cafe. 22. Metric. 23. Avenge.

Down: 1. Crayon. 2. Gale. 3. Reptile. 4. Snoop. 5. Emission. 6. Claret. 12. Offshore. 14. Illegal. 16. Elopes. 18. Effigy. 19. Smock. 21. Crew.

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ACROSS

7. Popular music that is tuneful and undemanding (4,9)
8. In a secretive fashion (2,3,3)
9. Small freshwater duck (4)
10. Place where a road branches off from another (7)
12. The act of stealing (5)
14. Customary, habitual (5)
16. Welcome supernatural event attributed to a divine agency (7)
19. Slightly moist (4)
20. Football upright (8)
22. Official list of people entitled to vote (9, 4)

DOWN

1. Farm building used for storage or housing livestock (4)
2. Large, heavy-bodied non-venomous snake (6)
3. The holding or expression of views at variance with those commonly or officially held (7)
4. Ropes, wires, or rods on sailing vessels which serve to stabilise the masts (5)
5. Informer, tell-tale (6)
6. Illicit (8)
11. Likely to give way, wobbly (8)
13. Abate, peter out (3, 4)
15. Domesticated South American mammal closely related to the llama (6)
17. Direct one's hopes or ambitions towards achieving something (6)
18. Dome-shaped Eskimo dwelling (5)
21. Hand over goods in exchange for money (4)

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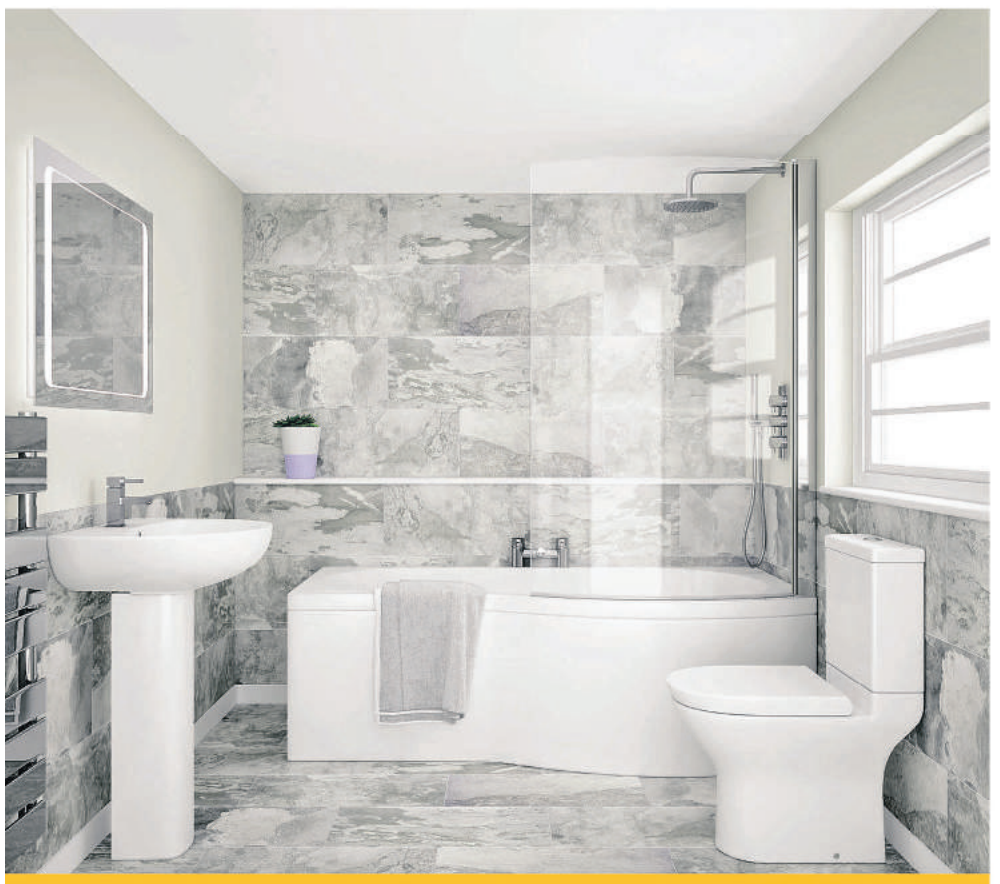

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Chance to win Opera prints worth £550 each

THE award winning producer Ellen Kent returns in the Spring to Liverpool after her recent critically acclaimed tours of Nabucco, Aida and La Boheme, with two traditional productions.

The shows she is bringing are Puccini's Madama Butterfly, one of the world's most popular operas, and Verdi's Rigoletto, the dark opera they tried to ban.

The Champion is offering the winner a limited edition, signed Ralph Steadman print of each production, worth £550 each.

Madama Butterfly will be at the Liverpool Empire on Saturday, March 3

Madama Butterfly is Puccini's popular tale which the hit West End musical Miss Saigon is based on. Puccini's Madama Butterfly tells the heart-breaking story of a beautiful young Japanese girl who falls in love with an American naval lieutenant – with dramatic results. Highlights include the melodic Humming Chorus, the moving aria One Fine Day and the unforgettable Love Duet.

With exquisite sets including a spectacular Japanese garden and fabulous costumes including antique wedding kimonos from Japan designed by the renowned Russian designer Felix Bessonov, from St Petersburg.

International Korean soprano Maria HeeJung Kim from the National Opera House of Seoul will be making her debut in the UK singing the role of the tragic Cio Cio San. HeeJung Kim, the talented young star studied in Milan and has made her debut as Madama Butterfly at the Milan Opera. HeeJung Kim has sung Madama Butterfly and La Traviata at major Opera Houses in Europe.

Ellen said: "My operas have to be emotional and beautiful."

As with any of Ellen Kent's shows all of the soloists have been hand-picked and directed by Ellen to create a visually "beautiful and moving" production of Madama Butterfly.

Verdi's Rigoletto can be seen at the Liverpool Empire on Friday, March 2.

Rigoletto is a dramatic tale of the jester's daughter whose heart is stolen by a charming but unreliable ruler – and how her father's attempts to prevent the love affair lead to tragedy. The opera was almost banned because it exposed the licentious behaviour of the powers-that-be at court. It is based on a play by Victor Hugo, who wrote Les Miserables, so Verdi has a libretto worthy of his talent.

A scene from Madama Butterfly

This spectacular magnificently-staged production is inspired by the tradition of Renaissance painting. Reflecting the sexual depravity of the Mantuan ducal court, the opera will feature seductive naked courtesans. When Hugo originally wrote the story it was called 'The King Who Amuses Himself', and it was banned, because of its sexual content - officially, but in reality for political reasons as it made covert jabs at politicians of the time. Verdi turned the tragedy into an opera and tried to recreate the setting in a very licentious court. It incurred the outrage of the censors and the rape scene in Verdi's original version created an uproar at the time. The opera was banned after one performance until he agreed to remove the scene. He then battled with censors in Italy and renamed the opera, Rigoletto.

Wishing to reproduce Verdi's original intentions Ellen Kent has included beautiful naked women on stage and has reintroduced the rape scene.

The winner of the competition will also win a pair of tickets to Madama Butterfly. A total of five runners up will also win one pair of tickets each to Madama Butterfly and a programme to Madama Butterfly. To be in with a chance of winning the competition answer the following question. Who wrote the opera Rigoletto? Answers to Champion Newspapers, 166 Lord Street, Southport, PR9 OQA. The closing date for the competition is Tuesday, February 27 at 12 noon. Please supply an address and a daytime contact number. The editor's decision is final.

Unfortunately our competition for tickets to see Back to Bachrach at the Southport theatre has had to be cancelled because the show has been postponed.

China's national treasures on display

THE Terracotta Warriors, which are described as some of China's finest national treasures, have come back to this country for the first time since 2008 and can be seen in Liverpool at the World Museum.

They will be in the city until October 28. China's First Emperor and the Terracotta Warriors features more than 180 spectacular artefacts from museums across Shaanxi Province, more than half of which have never been on show in the UK before.

This landmark exhibition tells the story of the formative years of the Chinese nation, from the pre-unification Qin Kings, to China's First Emperor, Qin Shi Huang's rise to power and the legacy of his achievements in the succeeding Han Dynasty.

China's First Emperor and the Terracotta Warriors is an unmissable opportunity to see some of China's finest national treasures. Visitors will come face to face with the extraordinary Terracotta Warriors, including a life-size terracotta horse, as well as other exquisite objects from the Emperor's vast burial complex. Objects from the Han Dynasty will explore ancient Chinese lifestyle, and the economic prosperity of the empire.

Armoured infantryman. © Mr. Ziyu Qiu

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Tribute to top musician coming to town's theatre

THE Rocket Man: a tribute to Multi-Grammy award-winning musician, Sir Elton John is coming to the Southport Theatre tomorrow (Thursday, February 22).

Audiences are invited to join the cast on a musical journey, charting the rise to fame of one of the biggest selling artistes of all time.

The night combines vocal and piano performances, flamboyant costumes, a dazzling light show - all accompanied by an outstanding band and backing vocals.

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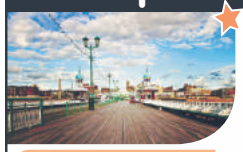

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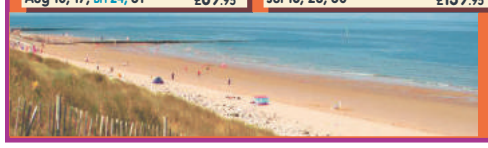
Apr BH 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£109.95
May BH 7, 14, 21	£109.95
May BH 28, Jun 4, 11	£119.95
Jun 18, 25	£139.95



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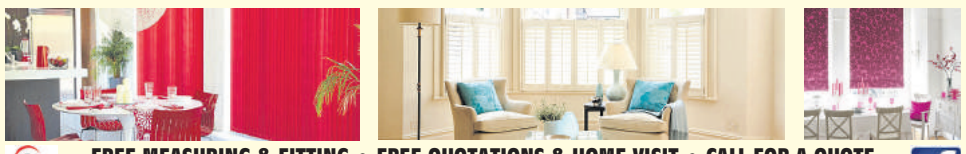

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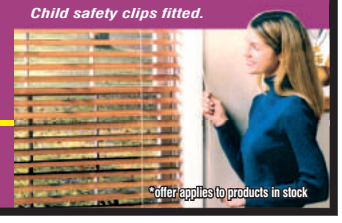

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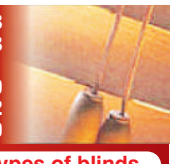

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2 SEATER soft brown leather sofa, excellent condition with easy glide feet £250 07944 169465

CREAM CURTAIN With pelmet and tie backs to fit in a bay window drop 86x54x26 sides of bay 07786 298207

FLOOR LAMP Freestanding LED lamp, mains adaptor, flexible neck, selling as unwanted gift £22 01704 894084

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FRIDGE FREEZER white Hotpoint 55" £50. Tumble dryer, white £50. Lydiate 07900 084223

FIRE FRONTAGE Crone & black living flame gas fire front/grill 0151 9284987

HOUSE AND HOME

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TWO MATCHING brass ceiling lights each with three lights and glass shades will sell separately may deliver £16 ono 01515263851

FRIDGE Hotpoint,white under counter type, no freezer box, good condition, collect from aintree, no withhelds please, bargain only £45 07941082422

KITCHEN TABLE Part drop leaf to both sides, light oak colour, with chairs, buyer collects from aintree, no withheld only £45 07941082422

JOHN LEWIS JLFZW1810 tall freezer. Good condition but needs manual defrosting. 254 litres capacity 180 cm tall £60 07429 428989

DELONGHI PASTACOOKER Brand New, Width/Height 1ft1, Depth 1ft4, Model PMC110. Collection Southport town £35 07511 244183

HORIZONTAL VENETIAN blinds x 2 in white including fittings. Sizes 47" and 48"Good condition phone for further details £20 07935641474

SQUARE CUBE storage unit in beech with 2 closed and 2 open cupboards. Ideal for small room/bedroom. Great condition £30 ono 07935641474

GALVANISED GATE Curved top, barred sides. Five panel wooden insert. 35" X 68". Unused, unpainted. £35 Ono. 01695 577890

HOUSE AND HOME

RATTAN FURNITURE Dark brown rattan bistro table with 2 matching rattan chairs with cream cushions .as new cost new £140 accept £40 01704543916

INFRARED SAUNA Cabin,4ft X 4ft,toughened glass door,radio/c.d player,ozone antibacterial unit,as new only used twice,moving house,need the space. £900. 01704 530137

COFFEE TABLE Glass top modern design H18in W48in D26in £80 also matching Lamp Table H21in w26in D22in £60 and Console Table H29in W48in D18in £80 01695 576078

CONSOLE TABLE Glass top modern design H29in W48in D18in £80 also matching Coffee Table H18in W48in D26in £80 and Lamp Table H21in W26in D22in £60 01695 576078

CREAM CURTAINS to fit pole 92in wide Drop 82in. Self coloured satin stitch pattern sheen finish Pinch Pleat heading fully lined John Lewis made to measure £80 01695 576078

LAMP TABLE Glass top modern design H21in W26in D22in £60 also matching Coffee Table H18in W48in D26in £80 and Console Table H29in W48in D18in £80 01695 576078

CEILING LIGHTS Debenhams brass ceiling lights cost £199 brand new all boxed sealed never opened, 3 available, can send picture if required £99 each 07931870983

FRAMED PAINTINGS Large/small oils, water colours, prints, various prices, all in very good condition. Email pictures available, buyer collects. 0151 2860268

HEATED HOSTESS TROLLEY Modern type hostess trolley. fully heated cabinet on castors. 2 complete dishes cabinet is in very good condition. heating elements all work. 01704560150

OLDFASHIONED TILED Fireplace complete with gas fire and surround,brass inlay .Looks great suit renovation or older house.£95 Pictures supplied 07767790187

BEAUTIFUL LARGE dining table and 6 cream chairs, brown marble with real marble base, excellent condition, bargain £750, cost £1395 Furniture Village 07944 169465

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CREAM CHAIR leather, rocks, swivels, reclines, heated seat, massages, as new £120 ono. Table four leather chairs, white wood, chrome legs £150 01695 624746

MISC

REMY MARTIN Wooden desktop bureau. £40 01704 875561

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FITNESS ROWER Horizon Oxford II, very good condition £80 01704 876329

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EXERCISE EQUIPMENT Dyaco International Total Core Apparatus never used folds for carrying and storing £15 ono 07968914294

GOLF CLUBS ram XLT irons 3-4-5-6-7-8-9-pw mizuno stand bag and a new putter bargain the lot£60 01515319425/07773242918

DUMBBELLS small set with stand, set 4 kettles, step (can be adjusted), exercise ball, bands, mat, new - unwanted gifts £50 07944 169465

TOYS AND GAMES

CHILDS SCOOTER Pink wheels and detail. Suitable for child around 5 years. Can send pic via e-mail. £6 01704 551398

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TOY TRUCK Great condition, plastic for outside or inside play. 18 inches long, 12 inches high. Can e-mail picture. £6 01704 551398

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Community Support Worker (temporary)
£16,303 per year, pro rata, Grade 3 Ref: LANCS10148
Do you want to make a difference to the lives of people who have a disability? We are looking for enthusiastic, motivated, flexible people who would enjoy supporting adults with disabilities to live the lives they want The Service supports people with learning/ physical disabilities in their own homes over 24hrs The Wake and Watch support worker role involves all aspects of support, including providing personal care, support with managing finance, administering medication and ensuring people's needs are met in terms of health and positive outcomes. The successful applicant will value others and have a person centred approach supporting people with dignity and respect We are recruiting 3 part time wake and watch staff to provide overnight support for an individual who has learning disability and complex behaviour needs. Usual working hours will be 10pm until 8am and the role will include implementing the individual's night time support plan and other agreed activities as part of the overall team. Successful candidates will be expected to be available to undertake training and team events such as probation and team meetings during daytime working hours.
Informal discussion: 01695 587433
Closing Date: 09/03/2018
Some schools are excluded as commitment is on an individual basis.
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Apply online at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies

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Community Support Workers
£16,491 - £17,772 a year, pro rata. Ref: LANCS09080
Do you want to make a difference to the lives of people who have a disability? We are looking for enthusiastic, motivated, flexible people who would enjoy supporting adults with disabilities to live the lives they want.
The service supports people with learning disabilities in their own homes over 24hrs.
The support worker role involves all aspects of daily support, including supporting people to access activities and experiences in their local community, personal care, support with managing finance, administering medication and ensuring people's needs are met in terms of health and positive outcomes.
The successful applicant will value others and have a person centred approach supporting people with dignity and respect.
Posts available:-
4 x 30 hours. 4 x 20 hours - all temporary contracts.
Informal discussion: please ring 01695 587433.
The post you are applying for is covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 (as amended in 2013). If successful you will be required to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for a 'disclosure'. Lancashire County Council has a Policy Statement on the Recruitment of Ex-offenders this is available to all applicants upon request.
Closing date: 9 March 2018.
Some schools are excluded as commitment is on an individual basis.
Lancashire County Council
Apply online at: www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies

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LOTTERY RESULTS

JOSPICE LOTTERY WINNERS

Friday 16th February 2018

£1000..... Dr Fletcher, Billinge
£250.....Mrs Morley, Crosby
£100.....Mrs Reynolds, Walton
Plus 15 other winners of £10 each

PUBLIC NOTICES

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Great Bear Distribution Ltd of Stellar House, Barbour Square, High Street, Tattenhall, Chester, CH3 9RF is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To keep an extra 5 trailers at the operating centre at Staveley Industrial Estate, Staveley Road, Skelmersdale, WN8 8DZ.

Owners or occupiers of the land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NG, stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

HOODS (UK) MILITARY MART LIMITED of UNIT 2 COUNTY ROAD BUSINESS PARK, COUNTY ROAD, ORMSKIRK, L39 3LY is applying for a licence to use UNIT 1 FALCON PLACE, BURSCOUGH, LANCASHIRE, L40 8RT as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 1 trailer.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2018/0049/FUL Erection of 4 No. Semi-detached affordable homes at Land Adjacent 107 Hall Road, Scarisbrick.

Application No: 2018/0090/COU Change of use from A1 to Tattoo Studio at 2 Church Walks, Ormskirk.

Application No: 2018/0118/FUL Double-storey rear extension to comprise of new indoor swimming pool, new kitchen/diner, gym & utility room on ground floor. First floor extension to house new bedroom complete with small inset balcony and walk in wardrobe at 43 Granville Park West, Aughton.

Application No: 2018/0125/FUL Two storey and single storey side extension at 12 Back School Lane, Up Holland.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 21st February 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT986

BIRTHDAYS

ZOE MCCONVILLE

Happy 21st Birthday

23rd February

Wishing our beautiful Zoe a very happy 21st birthday. All our love Mum & Dad, Stacy, Andy and Gaz xxx

Something to Celebrate?

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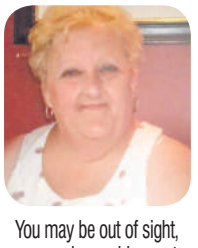
BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

STODDERN PAMELA

61 Today

Happy Birthday only to the best



You may be out of sight, we may be worlds apart, but you're forever on our minds, and forever in our hearts. Loving Husband Robbie, Daughters Sarah, Lisa and Emma, all your loving Grandchildren and Son-in-laws. We miss you so much xxx

Want to place a family announcement? Visit **champnews.com**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WYLIE JAMES ARTHUR

Margaret, Carole, Audrey, Pam, Phil & families would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their support, cards, messages of sympathy and kind donations received following the sad loss of JIM. Thank you to the carers at Stocks Hall, Burscough & Dr Statham for all their care and attention. thanks also to Carol Edwards celebrant for her comforting words and service, also to Melanie and her staff at Hardmans funeral service for the caring and professional arrangements.

PRICE ELIZABETH (LIL)

12th February 2018

Peacefully in her sleep, aged 93 years, is now reunited with her Husband Richard. She was a loving and dearly loved Mum of Alan, Sandra & Pam, Mum-in-law to Frank, Derek & Jane, and a much loved Nanna & Great Nannie. Will be sadly missed. Funeral Service at St. Anne's R.C. Church, Ormskirk on Monday 26th February at 10.30am, followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough.Family flowers only by request, but donations if so desired to North West Cancer Research. Donations and further enquiries please to Sally Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, L39 5DZ. Tel: 01695 424888

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FORSTER

The family of the late Elizabeth would like to express their sincere gratitude to all who offered sympathy and support during our sad loss. Thank you for all the sympathy cards and donations for R.N.I.B. Special thanks to all the staff at Southport Hospital for their care, to Rev. Jack Shepherd and Norman Lyon for a dignified service. Also many thanks to Melanie at H Hardman & co.

MORLEY (NEE FAGERASS) AMELIA (EMILY)

Emily's sisters Joan and Brenda wish to thank the family, Emily's many friends and her neighbours in Ince Blundell for the cards, expressions of sympathy and support during this sad time. Special thanks to Fr. D. Gamble and Rev. John Crooks for the beautiful service and their kind words. Gratitude and thanks to Coyne Bros Funeral Directors (Formby) for their professionalism and sensitivity. Special thank you to Emily's friends and Carers at Roby House for their support and caring ways.

EDGAR (BOLTON) TRUDY

Ann, Peter and Pauline would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their messages of condolence and sympathy cards received during their recent sad loss. Thanks also to all staff at Hillcroft Residential Home for their care and attention given to Trudy, Father Godric for his prayers and kind words of comfort, and MLS Independent Funeral Directors for their dignified care and attention.

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

IN MEMORIAM

CURRAN EDITH

25th February 2017

Loving and kind in all her ways, upright and just to the end of her days, sincere and true in her heart and mind, beautiful memories she left behind. Sadly missed by Son Al and Daughter in Law Carol
xx

DEATHS

FOGG MALCOLM STEPHEN

On 11th February 2018

Peacefully in Hospital

Aged 64 years

Dearly loved Father of Jessica and Anna, dear father in law of Dave and Thom, and a much loved pappy of Alexander and Theodore.
'Mal will be sadly missed by all his family and many friends'.
Funeral service and committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 23rd February at 1:45pm. Flowers or donations if so desired for British Heart Foundation. Flowers, donations and further enquiries please to M. Rushton Funeral Directors, 100 Marshside Road, Southport, PR9 9TG, Tel: 01704 214118.

JOHNSTON KENNETH CHARLES

Peacefully passed away

8th February 2018

Dearly loved husband of Jean. Loving father of Caroline, Andrew and Stuart. Devoted Grandfather to William, Olivia, Neil, Madeleine, Amy and Aidan.
Funeral service at Blundellsands Methodist Church on Friday 23rd February at 1.45pm followed by cremation at Thornton Crematorium.
Family flowers only please, donations if desired to British Heart Foundation.
All enquiries please contact Peter Coyne Funeral Service, 134-140 Stanley Road, Liverpool 0151 207 0222

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

DEATHS

WILLIAMS GLADYS

12th February 2018

Peacefully in hospital

aged 93 years

Loving Wife pf the late Martin. Cherished Mum of Stephen and Lynne and Mother in law of Phil, Jen and Carolyn. Devoted Nanna of Rebecca, Andrew and Eleanor and Great Grandmother of Evie, Jacob and Milo. Funeral Service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 23rd February 2018 at 1pm. Family flowers by request, but donations if desired will gratefully be received for Crohns and Colitis UK. Enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors, Burscough Street, Ormskirk L39 2EY. Tel: 01695 572997

WITHER JOYCE

Passed away peacefully on 14th February 2018

Much Loved Wife of Keith, Dearly loved Mum of Julia, adored Mimi of Jenni and Caitlen, and Great Mimi of Aiden and Jamie. Loved and missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium on Tuesday 27th February 2018 at 11.30 am. Family flowers only please by request but donations if so desired for Macmillan Nurses. Donations and further enquires please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton Tel: 01695 424888.

DEATHS

LEATHER CAROLE

On 19th February 2018

Peacefully aged 73 years

Devoted Mum of Jason, Gary and Rachael, Dear Mother in Law of Debbie and Minori, cherished Nanny of Jun, Jasmine, Lily, Lola, Bella and Carys. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 27th February at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Alder Hey Childrens Hospital. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

HOUGHTON GERTRUDE (GAYE)

9th February 2018

Passed away peacefully with Daughter Jane at her side

Aged 88 years

Wife of the late Richard, Mother-in law to Allan and Sister to Cybil. Friend to all who knew her. Flowers if desired or donations to British Heart Foundation. Funeral Service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Friday 23rd February at 10.40am. All enquiries to Hunters of Ormskirk 128b Burscough St Ormskirk, L39 2EY. Tel:01695 572997

WRIGHT GRAHAM

Passed away peacefully at home on 5th February 2018 aged 67 years.

Loved and missed by all his family & Friends. Funeral Service at West Lancs Crematorium, Burscough on Tuesday 27th February at 9.30am. Family flowers only please, donations if so desired for Alzheimer's Society. Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk, Tele: 01695 424888.

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DEATHS

MADDEN PETER

February 14th 2018
Aged 76

Peter passed away at Queenscourt Hospice with his close family beside him, in love and at peace. Most loved Husband, Father, Grandad, Brother and friend of many. Head teacher at English Martyrs Kirkby, 80s/90s. Celebration on 2nd March at Our Lady & All Saints, Parbold. Donations to Queenscourt welcome at https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SomeoneSpecial/Peter_Madden (no flowers please). Enquiries to H. Hardman & Co Tel: 01695 722122.

KENNEDY ETHEL

15th February 2018
Peacefully
aged 95 years
of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of the late Dr Patrick Kennedy, loving Mum of Gerard (deceased) and Maeve, dear Mother in law of Lionel, devoted Nana of Nicola, Joanna and Robert and Great Nanna to Harry, Elliot and Ollie. Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Tuesday 27th February 2018 at 1:00pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for North West Cancer Research or Barnardos. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

SIMPSON ANDREW

February 12th 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 70 years

Much loved Father of Colette & Paula. Beloved Grandad of Shola Mae, Shaun, Mark & Aaliyah. Loved Brother of Joyce, Kathy, George & Brother In Law Bill. Service & Cremation at Thornton Crematorium of Friday 23rd February at 10am. Family flowers only please.

DARWIN JUNE HOPE (Nee Douglas)

February 10th 2018
Peacefully aged 88 years

Beloved Wife of Gordon, dear Sister of Eunice, much loved Mother of Lyn, Peter and David. Proud Nana of Grandchildren Kerry, Alexander, Genevieve, Dominique and Emma and Great Grandchildren Jack and Tegan. Funeral Mass at St Gregory's Church, Lydiate on Monday March 5th 2018 at 10:00am followed by cremation at Thornton Crematorium. Family flowers only please but donations, if desired for Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation c/o Graham J. Clegg, Independent Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull. L31 5JB. Telephone: 0151 520 3330 or at www.cleggfunerals.co.uk

RAVENSCROFT JOHN

9th February 2018
Peacefully at home
Aged 87 years
Former District Commissioner of Maghull

Dearly loved Husband of Irene. Much loved Dad of David and Father-in-law of Carol. Dear Grandad of Tom and Joe. Funeral Mass at St Georges Church, Station Road, Maghull on Monday 26th February at 10.00am. Cremation following at Thornton Crematorium. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for Jospice Thornton c/o Graham J Clegg Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull L31 5JB. Tel 0151 520 3330.

BROWN MIKE

15th February 2018
Aged 76 years

Devoted and much loved Husband of Mavis. Loving Dad of Elaine, Gillian and Janet. Father-in-law of Ian, Chris and Simon and the best Grandad to Rachel, Alex, Annabelle, Callum and Jacob. Special Brother to John and Joy. Mike will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service at St James' Parish Church, Birkdale on Thursday 1st March at 12:00 noon followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Botanic Gardens Community Association (BGCA). Donations and enquires to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

WAREING LINCOLN JOHN

9th February 2018
Aged 66 years

Devoted Brother of Denise and much loved Son of the late John and Betty. A friend to everyone and loved by all who knew him. Passed away peacefully after a long illness with loved ones beside him. Funeral service to take place at The Parish Church of St Stephen in the Banks on Friday 23rd February at 12 noon followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough, L40 7SP. Bright clothing by request please. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being kindly received for St Stephen's Parish Church, Mencap and Alzheimer's Research UK (please make cheques payable to respective charities). Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

WAINWRIGHT ANNIE (ANN)

18th February 2018
Aged 91 years

Died peacefully at Acacia Court Care Home. Devoted Wife of the late Godfrey. Much loved mum of Anthony and Graham and Mother-In-Law to Jackie and Chris. Cherished Grandma and Great-Grandma to all of her grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren. Loving Sister of the late Arnold and Sister-In-Law of Keith and Margaret. Ann will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Service at Lord Street West United Church on Wednesday 28th February at 12:30pm followed by interment at Liverpool Road Cemetery. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

WRIGHT PHILIP

Passed Away
9th February 2018

Loving Husband to Jayne, Dad to Ben and Tom. Philip will be missed by all who knew him. Funeral service to take place at West Lancashire Crematorium Friday 23rd February 11.30am Family flowers only please, however donations are kindly being received for Macmillan.

Further enquiries to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton, PR4 6RJ. Telephone 01772 811165

DWYER BRIDGET (NEE REYNOLDS)

On 15th February 2018
Peacefully in hospital
Aged 57 years

Loving Mum of Peter and Gerard, cherished "Nanny Midge" of Dominic, Mia, Morgan and Jamie. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 27th February at 10.45am, family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Southport Hospital. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

ROSENGROVE MARIAN

16th February 2018
Peacefully at home
Aged 85 years

Much loved and devoted Mum, Nan, Great Nan and a dear friend to many. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Monday 26th February at 1.45pm. On the family's request, attendees are invited to wear bright colours on the day. Family flowers only please by request, donations of desired for Queenscourt Hospice or The Dogs Trust. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel 01695 559868.

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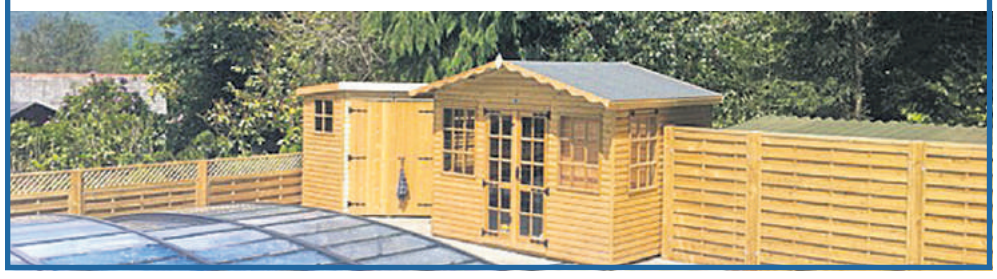

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The Ford Focus RS

IF you crane your neck a little and listen carefully you might just be able to hear the sobbing from pubs and supermarket car parks across the land. The Focus RS is about to read its last rites.

Anyone who read last week's *Champion* might recall me lamenting the lack of new hot hatches but Ford's now managed to go one better by culling the fastest of its current five-doors. It'll be making 50 Heritage Edition-badged cars, and in true *Max Power* tradition they'll all be finished in a retina-scorching shade of orange. Yours for £39,895, seeing as you're asking.

It's also a fair bet that Fast Ford fetishists are going to spend the next 30 years fighting over the good ones, just as they did with the Escort Mexico, the RS Turbo and the RS Cosworth. In fact, I've spent so long writing about old cars with Blue Ovals on their bonnets picking up hair-rising prices at auction that I was beginning to wonder if there are any cheap ones left. So I went window shopping – with a strict budget of just a tenth of what a Focus RS Heritage Edition costs. I'm delighted to report that you can still pick up blue oval-badged performance cars at blue collar prices.

The chief contender for this sort of money is the Focus ST – in fact, for a few quid over the budget I found one that'd been chipped and is knocking out 260bhp, which is a lot of motoring mischief for under four grand. If it were my money I'd go for its smaller Fiesta ST sibling, which might only serve up 150bhp but the cars out there seem to have lower mileages and be in better condition.

Both seem to have fallen into that awkward gap in petrolhead-dom where they're a bit too old hat to register with today's go-faster motorists, but they're too youthful and common in number to end up on the radar of classic car fans. Which is exactly the time to snap the good ones up.

It's also worth giving the Mondeo ST-220 an honourable mention too, because it really is an astonishingly accomplished ground coverer for the money.

It was cruelly snubbed by far too many buyers for the BMW 3-Series when it was new, but nowadays you can get 224bhp, room for five adults, bags of boot space and some finely-honed cornering sparkle in the same package for well under our £4k budget. Job done.

Unless of course, you want a proper Fast Ford of the RS-badged variety, that is. In which case I'll point you in the direction of the Escort RS2000 of the Nineties – they're few far and between, but keep looking and you can still get them at sensible prices.

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15 REG VAUXHALL MOKKA 5DR 1.4 140PS TURBO SE S/S, BLACK 35894 MILES £9990
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51	**FORD** FIESTA 1.2 3DR, red	£500
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P/P	**MERCEDES** S320 CDI AUTO, silver, leather, full spec	£3995
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59	**ALFA ROMEO** MITO LUSSO 3-dr, black metallic, 61k	£3295
10	**FORD** MONDEO DIESEL ESTATE ZETEC, in black	£2995
04	**KIA** SORENTO 2.5 TD MANUAL, silver, leather, FSH	£2795
58	**FIAT** BRAVO DIESEL, in gold, 5DR	£2595
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07	**VAUXHALL** ASTRA 1.6 SXI 16V 3DR, silver, 42,000 miles	£2250
58	**SEAT** IBIZA 1.4 SPORTLINE, in red	£2495
07	**PEUGEOT** 207 AUTO, black, 60,00 miles	£2295
58	**VW** FOX 3DR, in blue, 69,000 miles	£2250
57	**MAZDA** 5 2.0 DIESEL SALOON, in blue	£1995
55	**VOLVO** V50 DIESEL ESTATE, grey metallic, full leather	£1995
56	**FIAT** SEDICI 4WD DIESEL 5DR, silver	£1995
55	**AUDI** A4 AVANT ESTATE 2.0 TDCI SE, silver, 6 speed gearbox	£1995
02	**TOYOTA** CELICA 1.8 VVTI, blue, leather, 49,000 miles	£1995
05	**VW** GOLF 2.0 GTTDI SPORT 6SPD 3DR, Silver	£1995
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55	**VOLVO** V50 T DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 in blue	£1695
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54	**VW** POLO 1.4 AUTOMATIC, in silver, 69,000 miles	£2250

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07	**VW** TOURAN 1.6 S, petrol, 5dr, manual, 7 seats, FSH, silver, 69k	£3695
08	**MAZDA** 5 SPORT DIESEL, 6spd red metallic, 7 seats, 2 owners, FSH	£3650
55	**VAUXHALL** ZAFIRA TD DESIGN, silver, 7 seats	£2495

VANS

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Lancashire Ford

Selected Pre-Owned Cars

Year	Model	CC	Vehicle Description	Colour	Mileage	Price
2017	Ford KA+	1200	Zetec 85ps	Sparkling Gold	3500	£10295
2017	Ford KA+	1200	Zetec 85ps	Tuxedo Black	1150	£9495
2014	Ford B-Max	1000	Zetec 1.0 100ps	Deep Impact	19000	£8595
2013	Ford B-Max	1400	Zetec	Burnished Glow	38000	£6495
2017	Ford C-Max Grand	2000	Titanium X TDCi	Magnetic	1500	£17495
2017	Ford C-Max Grand	1500	Titanium TDCi	Shadow Black	5000	£16495
2015	Ford Fiesta	1000	Titanium 1.0 100ps 5 Dr	Deep Impact	36200	£8995
2016	Ford Fiesta	1250	Zetec 1.25 82ps 5 Dr	Moondust Silver	14000	£9495
2016	Ford Fiesta	1250	Zetec 1.25 82ps 5 Dr	Moondust Silver	9600	£9495
2016	Ford Fiesta	1500	Titanium X Tdci	Candy Red	7500	£12295
2015	Ford Fiesta	1000	Titanium 1.0 100ps 5 Dr	Frozen White	17000	£9995
2017	Ford Fiesta	1000	Titanium X 5 Dr	Moondust Silver	3500	£13295
2017	Ford Fiesta	1250	Zetec 1.25 82ps 5 Dr	Hot Mustard	9500	£9495
2015	Ford Fiesta	1250	Zetec 1.25 82ps 5 Dr	Moondust Silver	16000	£8495
2014	Ford Fiesta	1500	Titanium TDCi 5 Dr	Candy Blue	35700	£7995
2017	Ford Fiesta	1000	Titanium 1.0 80ps 5 Dr	Copper Pulse	3000	£10495
2017	Ford Fiesta	1000	Zetec 1.0 100ps 3 Dr	Bohal Bay Mint	3000	£9495
2017	Ford Fiesta	1000	Zetec 1.0 100ps 3 Dr	Copper Pulse	3000	£9495
2014	Ford Fiesta	1250	Zetec 1.25 82ps 3 Dr Body Kit	Deep Impact	29000	£7295
2012	Ford Fiesta	1600	Titanium 5Dr	Moondust Silver	35000	£6495

Year	Model	CC	Vehicle Description	Colour	Mileage	Price
2013	Ford Fiesta	1250	Zetec 1.25 82ps 3 Dr	Frozen White	26500	£6495
2013	Ford Fiesta	1000	Titanium 100ps 5 Dr	Panther Black	23000	£8995
2017	Ford Focus	1500	ST-Line 1.5 150ps	Candy Red	10500	£15495
2014	Ford Focus	1600	Zetec Navigator Estate TDCi	Deep Impact	17500	£10495
2014	Ford Focus	1600	Zetec Navigator AUTO	Frozen White	23500	£9495
2016	Ford Focus	1000	Zetec	Candy Red	13500	£10995
2017	Ford Focus	1000	Zetec Edition	Magnetic	13000	£12995
2017	Ford Focus	1000	Zetec Edition	Shadow Black	11500	£12995
2013	Ford Focus	1600	Zetec Auto	Moondust Silver	38000	£6995
2017	Ford Mondeo	1500	Titanium Econetic Estate TDCi	Moondust Silver	16400	£16995
2017	Ford Kuga	2000	Titanium X TDCI	Ruby Red	700	£26995
2017	Ford Kuga	1500	Zetec	Shadow Black	9000	£18495
2014	Ford Kuga	1600	Zetec	Deep Impact	7500	£13495
2016	Ford Kuga	2000	Zetec TDCi	Frozen White	3500	£14995
2015	Ford Ecosport	1000	Zetec 1.0 125ps 5 DR	Panther Black	22000	£9495
2016	Ford Edge	2000	Sport TDCi	Electric Spice	3000	£28995
2014	Fiat 500	1200	CLounge	Blue	21400	£7295
2014	Ford S-Max	1600	Zetec TDCi	Moondust Silver	16800	£12495
2013	Ford S-Max	1600	Titanium TDCi	Candy Red	29000	£12495
2017	Ford Galaxy	2000	Titanium X TDCi	Shadow Black	2000	£24995

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Deposit Allowance	£1,600.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£12,036.83
47 Monthly Payments	£195.00

Optional Final Payment	£4,228.00
Interest Charges	£1,356.17
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£15,688.00
APR Representative	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Adam
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£1600 Finance Deposit Allowance

For just £195 per month

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£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£14,331.83
Customer Deposit	£195.00
Deposit Allowance	£1,600.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£12,036.83
47 Monthly Payments	£195.00

Optional Final Payment	£4,228.00
Interest Charges	£1,356.17
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£15,688.00
APR Representative	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Crossland X
1.2 SE 81ps 3dr
£1,000 Finance Deposit Allowance

For just £189 per month

£399 customer deposit

£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£15,280.00
Customer Deposit	£399.00
Deposit Allowance	£1,000.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£13,381.00
47 Monthly Payments	£189.76

Optional Final Payment	£6,080.00
Interest Charges	£1,617.72
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£16,897.72
APR Representative	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Mokka X
1.4T ecoTEC Active 5dr
£3000 Finance Deposit Allowance

For just £229 per month

£229 customer deposit

£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£19,336.58
Customer Deposit	£229.00
Deposit Allowance	£3,000.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£15,607.58
47 Monthly Payments	£229.98

Optional Final Payment	£6,650.00
Interest Charges	£1,865.77
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£21,188.06
APR Representative	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Insignia Grand Sport
1.5T 165 Design

For just £239 per month

£239 customer deposit

£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£17,019.67
Customer Deposit	£239.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£16,280.67
47 Monthly Payments	£239.00

Optional Final Payment	£6,983.00
Interest Charges	£1,935.33
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£18,955.00
APR Representative	4.2%

Brand New Vauxhall Grandland X
1.2T SE 5dr
£1200 Finance Deposit Allowance

For just £249 per month

£249 customer deposit

£500 minimum part ex

Cash Price	£20,458.48
Customer Deposit	£249.00
Deposit Allowance	£1,200.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£18,509.48
47 Monthly Payments	£249.98

Optional Final Payment	£9,049.00
Interest Charges	£2,288.58
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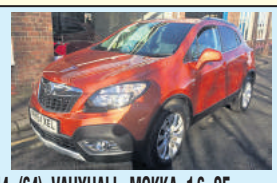

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Crunch games await both Skem and Linnets

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

SKELMERSDALE United and Burscough both face crucial games on Saturday. Both are presently positioned just above the relegation zone in their respective leagues, meaning that victory for both clubs on Saturday is vital especially as they are playing teams that start the day below them in the table.

A win will create some breathing space and greatly ease the worries, a defeat will compound them severely and quite possibly thrust them into a survival struggle.

Skelmersdale United entertain bottom placed Goole at Volair Park, Prescot, kick off 3pm. Skem are 3rd from bottom on 24 points from 30 games, Goole are bottom on 18 points from 29 games. Theoretically only one team will be relegated but because of league re-organisation and a proposed merger between two teams, it is not known yet whether the bottom placed club in Evo-Stik Division One North will be relegated, so a win for Skem would be big boost for Dave Powell's team. A defeat though would leave uncertainty and put the pressure on.

Powell added an established striker to his squad before last week's match at Scarborough but then suffered a blow as he lost arguably his best midfield player Mike Roddy to Glossop North End.

Striker Scott Bakkor has been with Skelmersdale before, he is quick and direct, plus he has a good goal scoring track record at Skelmersdale's level. He has experience at clubs like Witton Albion, Warrington, Colwyn Bay and Clitheroe and was a member of Tommy Lawson's Skem team in more successful days. His arrival is very much a positive for the club.

Mike Roddy will be sorely missed. He brought height and physicality to the middle of the park for Skem, he also brought goals and was a good distributor of the ball, and possibly more significantly he was also a good leader on the field.

Of the Roddy move it could be said that based on his post-match interview on Saturday Powell is a bit unhappy. When asked about it he said: "I am disappointed that we have lost him. I know his reasons, I know it was a difficult decision for him, good luck to him, he's made his decision and will stand by it I am sure."

Skelmersdale have no midweek game next week and indeed have only one home game in the entire month of March, but they do face lesser opposition than they have during a tough schedule in February, starting at Kendal Town on Saturday, March 3.

Burscough looked very thin on the ground at Abbey Hey on Saturday where they slipped to a 4-2 defeat. This Saturday they have a rearranged game at Maine Road before another rearranged game on Tuesday, February 27 at home to local rivals Ashton Athletic.

Maine Road are one place behind 17th placed Burscough, with a point less but with a game in hand, so it is important that the Linnets don't lose and would be a big bonus if they won.

On Saturday Burscough will have Josh Dunroe available again after suspension, his work rate and non-stop style has been missed over the last couple of games. Another absentee who may be out for longer is Alex Parkes, the former Oldham Athletic player is arguably the club's most consistent player and can perform equally well in any position across the back four or midfield.

He has a hamstring injury and they can keep a player out for anything between a week and 10 weeks, so Dave Sutton will be praying it is the former not the latter. Dave will also be looking to add to his threadbare squad before the signing-on deadline at the end of March.

After the Ashton match Burscough have no game until Saturday, March 10 when they entertain Runcorn Town.

Burscough pay price for a poor first half

Abbey Hey 4
Burscough 2

A POOR first-half showing cost Burscough dearly on Saturday.

The Linnets were 2-0 down by the midway point of the first period, then conceded again straight after the interval, a quick reply gave them hope before Abbey Hey broke and made it 4-1.

Abbey Hey took the lead when a corner was driven into the near post and goalkeeper Josh Samberg was knocked around and dropped the ball and Andy Smith headed home from close range.

Two minutes later it was 2-0. Robert Swallow exchanged passes on the right then cut inside, and played a short pass to Peter Watling whose shot went into the net via the far post.

After the break Burscough came out all guns blazing but in the 48th minute a free-kick wasn't cleared well and Boyle sent a thunderous half-volley into the Burscough net to make it 3-0.

On 51 minutes Burscough gave themselves hope. Jamie Clark played a diagonal ball across the penalty area to an on-the-run Whyte, whose surging run climaxed in a shot into the roof of the net.

But in the 79th minute Swallow was put through the Burscough defence by a quality pass, he squared the ball to Adam Farrand and the substitute netted competently.

Burscough pulled a goal back in added time when Whyte got his second, that brought a bit of justice to the scoreline.

Boss delighted with battling performance despite defeat

Scarborough Athletic 2
Skelmersdale United 1

Action from the match at Scarborough.

THE trip to play third-placed Scarborough saw Skem go into an early lead before they went into the interval 2-1 down, and in the second-half they came very close to equalising in an end-to-end encounter, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow*

Dave Powell to described it as: "Probably overall the best performance we have put in all season."

It took Skem less than four minutes to strike. Jordan Darr picked the ball up midway into the Scarborough half and ran at left-back Dave Merris.

The Scarborough captain mistimed his tackle sending Darr to the floor and a penalty was given.

New signing Scott Bakkor quickly grabbed the ball and sent home goalkeeper Tom Taylor the wrong way.

Skem might have led 2-0 had Tom Hulme not curled a 10th minute shot just the wrong side of the post.

Scarborough's equaliser on 17 minutes was an own goal. Michael Coulson crossed, James Walshaw ran for the ball with defender Josh Wardle at his side, who stretched to get a touch on the ball only to see his header unluckily send the ball across Skem goalkeeper Chris Cheetham into the far top corner.

Skem came under pressure before half-time and Coulson beat Cheetham to a bouncing ball and should have headed into the empty net but he sent his header wide.

Seconds before the interval, from the corner the ball was headed down to Nathan Valentine some four yards from goal, but with his back to the target, in one movement he managed to turn and slam the ball high into the roof of the net to make it 2-1 to Scarborough.

The second half was played at a good tempo with both teams on the hunt for a goal. Darr had a shot saved and a cross from Hulme almost caused great embarrassment to home keeper Taylor, at the other end Lewis Sugden hit a powerful drive that Cheetham tipped over his crossbar.

So it continued, plenty of attacking enterprise but two good defences.

Wright brought a great diving save from Cheetham and then he put in a dangerous cross that Walshaw couldn't convert.

In the 84th minute Tom Molyneux had a shot tipped over the crossbar as Skem finished strongly.

Two minutes into added time Bakkor out-ran two defenders and when faced with keeper Taylor he shot over the bar. It wasn't to be Skem's day, but they will have gained confidence from their effort.

After praising the first-half efforts Dave Powell added: "In the second-half I thought we were outstanding, we put a really good side to the sword, we had six or seven chances and just didn't get the run of things, for the lads to keep going until the last minute, is all I can ask of them. I think if we do that between now and the end of the season we'll be winning games, I have absolutely no doubt."

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